

KEEP STRONG

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•Uptown Tenants Survival Union Kicked-Off
•"Gold Card" Slavery

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BREAKTHROUGH IN HAMPTON MURDER



FBI Role Revealed

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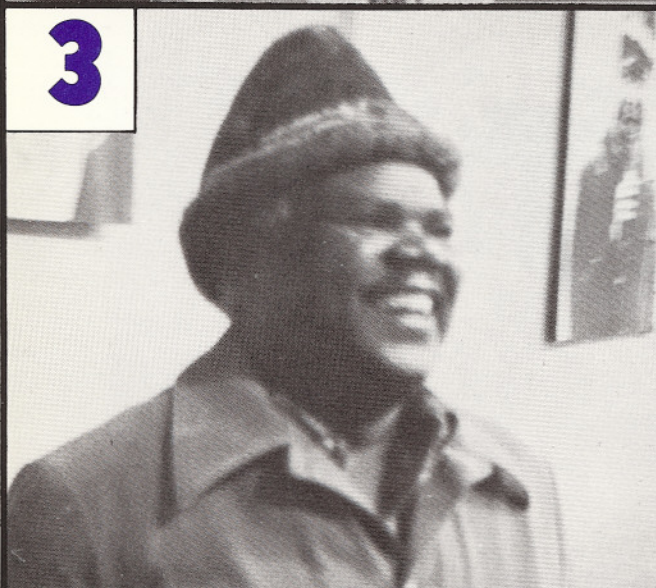


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TOWN TENANTS
SURVIVAL UNION



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In This Issue

1. The FBI was on the witness stand in the \$47.7 million Fred Hampton lawsuit last month. Their participation in the assassination of the Black Panther Party leader was exposed along with other tactics used to destroy grassroots organizations. See Page 26.
2. The Uptown Tenants Survival Union got off to a strong start at the first membership meeting held here on February 21st. See Page 21.
3. Tapson Mawere explains the struggle for freedom in Zimbabwe and throughout Southern Africa. See Page 37.
4. Community residents take action to free themselves from the chains of "gold card" slavery. See Page 31.

KNOW "YOUR" FBI

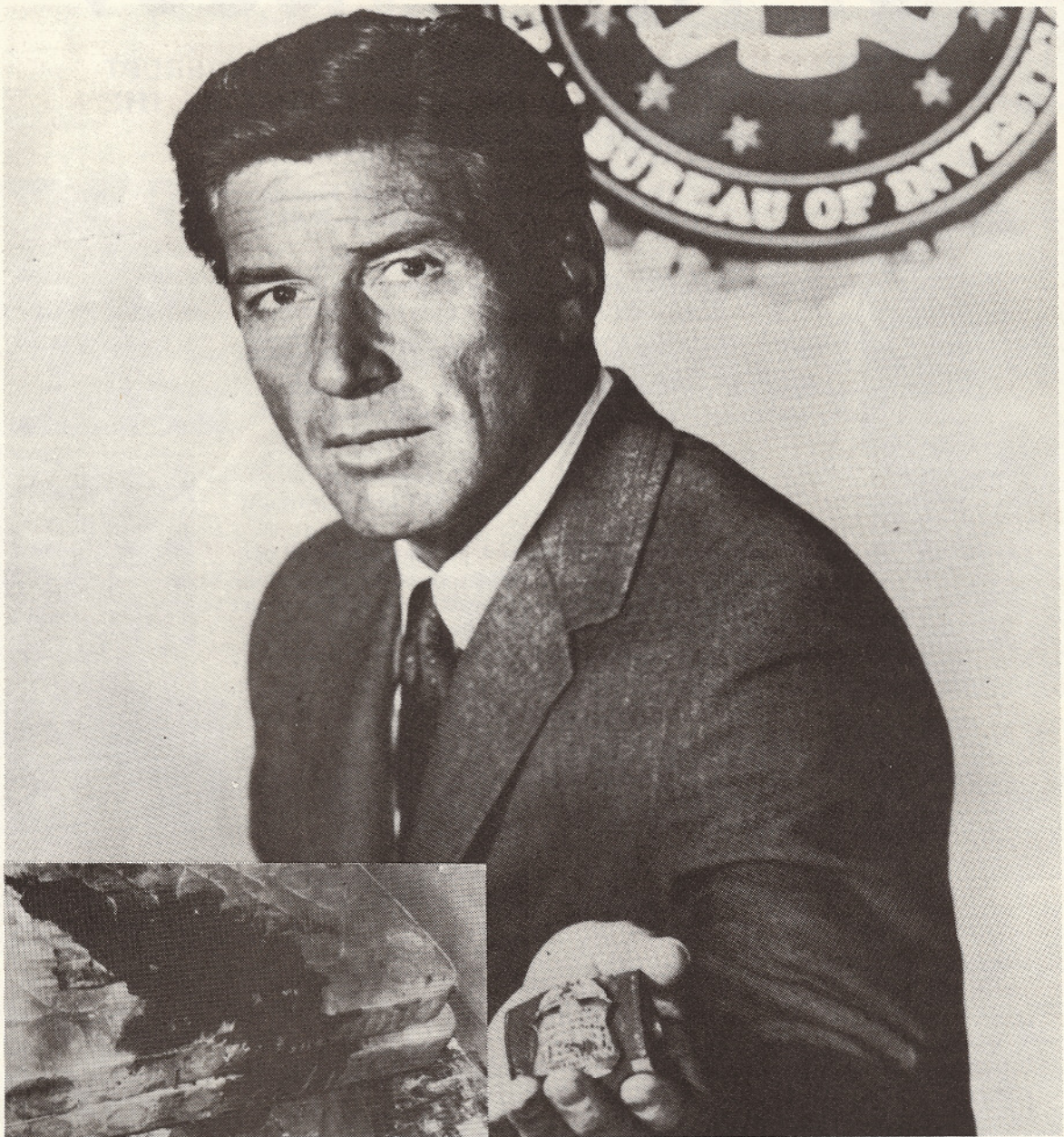
The million dollar T.V. production of the FBI series starring Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. has been moved from prime time to late, late in the evening. In our opinion, that's a shame, because now is the time when we need a nationally televised series on the FBI. With recent revelations about the FBI activities in disrupting grassroots organizations, plotting anonymous letters, provoking criminal activity and even planning assassinations, the series could take on a realism that the country deserves.

A typical hour show could open with Zimbalist dictating a letter to J. Edgar Hoover, asking for permission to send a letter to Jeff Fort telling him that a "hit" was out on him by the leaders of the Black Panther Party and that he should "take care" of them. Then he could dictate another letter to Hoover asking for permission to cause Fred Hampton to be arrested on an old warrant in Maywood at the site of his appearance on T.V. Another letter could suggest telling Martin Luther King that he kill himself "or else." Finally, Zimbalist could meet with an unknown FBI superior and explain the careful plot to assassinate Fred Hampton in a 4 a.m. raid to be carried out by Hanrahan's elite killer cop unit.

The second part of the show could show Hoover's response, congratulating Zimbalist on depriving Hampton of his civil right to free speech, or going crazy with excitement over the letter calling for King to commit suicide. The third part of the hour show could show actual raids with brave young leaders of the movement for social justice shot down in cold blood, or killed while they lay drugged and in bed.

It is truly a shame that millions of U.S. citizens could not have watched the activities of the FBI as they were really being carried out. Perhaps there would have been outrage and protest. And perhaps Fred Hampton, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and George Jackson would have been with us today, now when we need their leadership so badly.

But those who knew the truth and were willing to expose the truth in 1969 did not produce or direct nationwide T.V. shows. They did, however, have their lives to give in an attempt to let the rest of us know that this country is ruled behind the elections and elected officials by a well-organized military machine which will stop at nothing to destroy people's movements for better conditions and equal justice.



Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. personally selected by J. Edgar Hoover to promote the FBI. Insert: Fred Hampton's blood-stained bed.

The 1960's are over, and Efrem Zimbalist has missed playing the role of the century – the FBI the way we know it today. But the FBI is not gone. Instead, President Ford has called for a reorganization of the entire intelligence community under the control of the infamous CIA director George Bush. Ford's new order, a highly centralized secret army, capable of anything, should remind us all of what George Jackson called the "unique brand of American fascism: its ability to 'reform,' 'organize' and then to crush any and all resistance."□

ON THE STREET

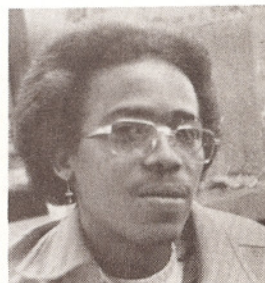
**"DO YOU THINK THE FBI HAS THE RIGHT TO DISRUPT
OR ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY?"**



Gayle Winstead
4748 N. Winthrop

"No, I don't think they have the right. They're not doing anything wrong. There's no reason for them to be bothered."

Ben Austin
4108 N. Kenmore



"They don't have no right doing that. They should be stopped; all that should be cut out, especially kicking in people's doors. They know it's wrong, stopping people on the street, searching them and stuff like that. I think what they did to Fred Hampton and Mark Clark is wrong, definitely wrong. There shouldn't be a court case. They should just go ahead and give them the cash right there because they were definitely wrong. It was a setup."



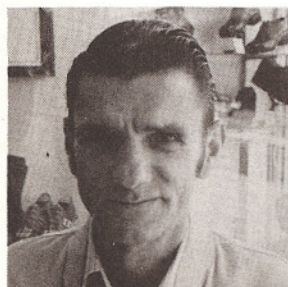
Kathleen Miller.
6741 N. Sheridan Road

"No, I think each organization has a right to a certain amount of confidentiality to be able to run. I think the FBI has abused its power."

Jessie Cole
4640 N. Sheridan Road



"I think they overstepped their bounds when they killed those boys. As long as they stay within the law it's O.K. But I don't think that was within the law."



Paul Zimmerman
1001 W. Sunnyside

"If there was a case where they did do it, I would be strictly against it."

Mary Taylor
4627 N. Magnolia

"I believe the FBI has no reason to come in here at all."



Donald Walker
920 W. Sunnyside

"As far as I understand about Mark Clark and Fred Hampton, I think that was what you call a real cold thing; the way they broke in. It was a rip-off. They lied about it. I feel they just don't want the organization to get further. But the Black Panther Party has gone further since then. It's made it stronger. I don't think the FBI has the right to discriminate or try to wreck and misuse the organizations because it's not only helping the Black people but it's doing a lot for the other nationalities, too."

Gaye Viens
4836 N. Paulina

"No, I don't think the FBI has the right to do that because as long as the organization isn't doing anything that's criminally wrong, they should be able to get together if they want to."

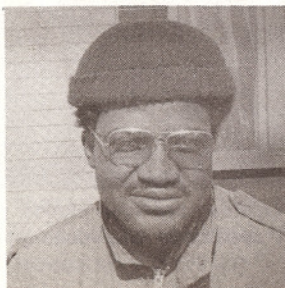


Irma Patton
1244 W. Sunnyside

"I don't think so. They don't destroy anybody else's organization; why should they destroy this one?"

Leah Johnson
5528 N. Kenmore

"No, I don't think they have the right. No. The FBI thinks they own the U.S. more than the government does, and it's not fair to the people what they push through."



Ewing Blackman
2735 W. Flournoy

"They shouldn't try to destroy nobody. As far as I know about the Black Panthers, like the shooting of Fred Hampton, like the conspiracy against them, they weren't doing anything at the time. They were at home sleeping."

WELFARE RIGHTS

Thousands Face Hardships Due To GA Redeterminations

In an action which is being criticized by some observers as an election gimmick, Illinois Public Aid Director James Trainor announced February 12, the beginning of a massive review of all Chicago General Assistance recipients for the purpose of cutting off 6,000 people now receiving aid. Trainor, speaking for Governor Walker, said that the costly redetermination process was being carried on now because he believes 25% of the recipients now receiving General Assistance are ineligible.

Many community organizations and public aid caseworkers, however, say this is not true. Pointing out the millions of dollars lost to the fraudulent practices of hospitals, doctors and

medical clinics, many say that as always the recipient is getting caught in the middle.

In order to carry out the state's massive redetermination plans, four regional redetermination centers have been set up in Chicago. GA workers from each office have been placed in the special offices so that there is only one GA worker for every three or four caseloads at the district office. Therefore, emergency assistance will be very hard to get, and regular services will be near impossible.

The review will take place over a 60 day period. All GA recipients will receive a notice with their check. This letter must include an appointment date, the address of the place they are to report to and a list of the necessary documents and receipts they must bring with them.

If the appointment can't be kept, the person receiving the letter must call the telephone number given on the letter and make a new appointment. Failure to do this will result in automatic removal from the program.

On the day of the scheduled appointment, the recipient must go to the address given in order to fill out a new food stamp application. When this



One of the temporary GA redetermination centers set up in Chicago. GA workers from each office have been placed in these special offices so that there is only one GA worker, resulting in overcrowding caseloads and making emergency assistance hard to get.

Documents & Receipts Required For GA Redetermination

1. Social Security cards.
2. If you rent your home, your last rent receipt.
3. If you are buying your home, your most recent mortgage payment receipts.
4. Your latest electricity, gas and water receipts, if any.
5. Identification of any other income of any member of your assistance unit.
6. Savings and checking account passbooks and latest monthly statements from the bank.
7. Life insurance policies owned by you or another member of your assistance unit.
8. The Illinois State Employment Service Registration card for each employable member of your assistance unit.
9. Birth certificates. If you do not have a copy of each birth certificate for each assistance unit member, bring some document that proves where and when the individual was born.
10. If you are receiving General Assistance for children age 16 or over, bring some proof that they are now attending school.

application is completed everyone must then go to the "new" welfare employment service on the 2100 block of S. Indiana to apply for employment. General Assistance has its own employment program that functions independently of the Illinois Department of Public Aid's WIN program. It is particularly renowned among case-workers and recipients alike for being consistently ineffective in finding anyone jobs and also, claim many, for causing unnecessary harassment.

The so-called "crackdown" is being criticized as a waste of money as the Department of Public Aid already has a program of reviewing every recipient every four months. As one recipient put it, "It seems that poor people are always the scapegoat whenever some politician is trying to get elected." □

Know Your Alternatives: GA & SSI

Amidst reports of the GA redeterminations *KEEP STRONG* discussed benefits of the SSI program and the GA program with members of the Welfare Defense Program of the 46th Ward Community Service Center.



Waiting at the GA redetermination center, one recipient said, "It seems that poor people are always the scapegoat whenever some politician is trying to get elected."

For many people hard hit by the economic crisis or in poor health, public aid is a last resort. The bureaucracy, often bungling and usually insensitive, does not generally inform people of the various possibilities open to them. Someone in such a situation has two choices; he or she can apply for General Assistance or SSI (disability). The checks received from both programs are just about the same. However, medical coverage differs sharply; a person who is on SSI receives an 03 green card giving full medical coverage. A person on GA receives an 07 green card which eliminates various medical services including eye glasses and dental care.

Application for Social Security disability requires an initial visit to the Social Security office for the purpose of getting a green letter to take to public aid. This letter entitles the applicant to an application which must be filled out at once and turned in. A receipt confirming that the application was made should be gotten. The first check is dated from the filing of the application.

Public Aid sends checks until Social Security accepts or denies the SSI application. They also will provide the 03 green card throughout this

time. If the recipient needs a green card before it would ordinarily be sent, a doctor's statement or appointment date must be brought to the public aid interview which is usually two to three weeks after the application has been filed.

If the SSI application is turned down which is very common, then the applicant should return to the Social Security Office and file for a re-examination of the case. This takes up to six weeks. One more appeal is possible if the applicant fails the second examination. Although this process can take up to six or seven months, a check, food stamps, and the 03 green card should be available every month.

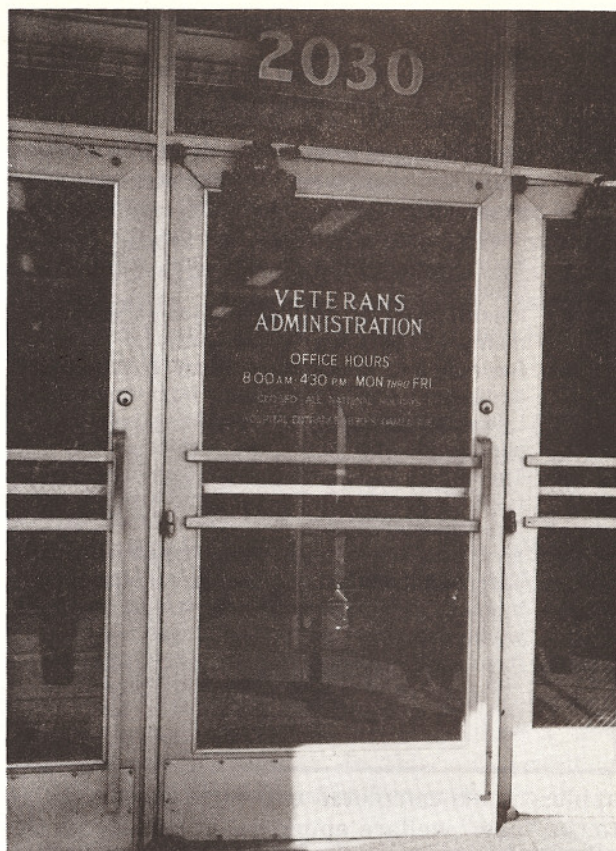
If after going through this process the applicant is still denied disability, and he or she should be eligible for public aid, it is still possible to apply for GA and hopefully be more successful, although not as well-covered medically. □

VETERANS' RIGHTS

Benefits: The Tunnel Is Still Dark

Bennie Ray Tolson is 60 years old. He is a veteran of World War II and has been disabled since 1969 because of an injury that was not service connected. For most of the time since 1969, he received a partial pension from the Veterans Administration which, supplemented with his black lung benefits, allowed him and Mrs. Tolson a barely adequate income to survive on. Fourteen months ago he stopped receiving his monthly checks from the VA. He was not notified why. When he called the local VA office at 2030 W. Taylor St., he was told to leave his VA claim number, and they would get back to him within six to eight weeks.

Mr. Tolson used other means to investigate the removal of his benefits. Each time he inquired as to why he had been cut off, he was given another answer; his earnings in 1974 were too large, he failed to report his black lung benefits, he didn't respond to a questionnaire, he was uncooperative at an interview. Each reply took four to six



Each time Bennie Ray Tolson has called the VA office at 2030 W. Taylor (above), he has received a different answer.

weeks, and each was as wrong as it was late in coming. After many hours, many forms, many letters and many phone calls, Mr. Tolson is still not receiving his checks, and the end of the tunnel is still dark. But he is not alone.

There are over 30 million veterans in the United States today. The Veterans Administration employs 214,000 people. Its annual budget is \$16 billion. It is a huge bureaucracy the function of which is to administer the benefits that congress has voted to veterans. But presently, it falls far short of serving the needs of those veterans. This is particularly the case in the oppressed communities, where no strong veterans organizations exist to fight the daily battle to ensure that each veteran gets what he or she is entitled to. This is doubly true of Vietnam veterans who returned to our underemployed communities with no more skills or opportunities than they had when they left.

The laws establishing the programs are on the books. The money to be paid back to the veterans is appropriated each year. The only things that stand between veterans and these benefits are the Veterans Administration, \$100 billion worth of dead weight and our own ignorance.

In the coming months, starting with this issue, *KEEP STRONG* will regularly provide veterans with information on available benefits and the methods to get them.

High School Diploma — GED

A veteran who must complete high school training or pass the GED examination to qualify for higher education may receive an educational assistance allowance. He or she may also receive money for additional secondary school training such as refresher courses or deficiency courses which are needed to qualify for admission to an educational institution.

RATE OF BENEFITS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Student	0 dependents	1 dependent	2 dependents	add-each dependent
Full time	\$270	\$321	\$366	\$22
3/4 time	203	240	275	17
1/2 time	135	160	182	11

Benefit payments for the educational program described are available to all post-Korean conflict and Vietnam Veterans. Application forms are available at the VA Office, 2030 W. Taylor St. □

ON THE JOB

Pulling The Flag

The recent controversy surrounding taxi cabs in Chicago has focused mainly on the contradictions between the city and the Checker and Yellow Cab companies. This month, *KEEP STRONG*, travelling around the city, talked to several cab drivers to find out their opinions on both the current controversy and their jobs.

Chicago Consumer Sales Commissioner, Jane

Byrne, says it was almost by accident that through a routine comparison of her records with the records of the Budget Department, she found a number of licensed cabs which did not exist. A member of the Seafarers' Union, which represents cab drivers, says his union has known this for years and has consistently called for exactly this kind of investigation. According to a 60 year old cab driver who has been driving a cab for 20 years, "What really happened was the company crossed Daley, and the mayor hit back."

Both Checker and Yellow cab companies are owned by Checker Motors Corporation, a multi-million dollar corporation based in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It also owns airlines, motor fuel companies, and of course companies that make taxi cabs and taxi cab parts.

What Jane Byrne discovered through a routine issuing of medallions (licenses), the cab drivers have known for a long time. The Checker Motors Corporation has been illegally transporting broken down cabs from their New York cab companies to their Chicago cab companies to avoid safety inspection. Following this "discovery" by the city of Chicago there has been wave after wave of more discoveries concerning the lack of safety of cabs, another fact that has been known for years by cab drivers. "A lot of cabs are dangerous," says Dave Chandler who drives cabs on weekends. "For example, I know of no cabs with seat belts for the driver. I think they want us to go down with the ship."

Medallions And Safety

When World War II ended and large numbers of young men returned home from the war, a crisis in jobs occurred. In Chicago, to help the situation, the city started issuing large numbers of cab licenses. These were mostly given to independent cab companies. Checker Cab Company saw this as a threat to their monopoly and convinced the city to give them some extra medallions. The city began sending the licenses directly to the cab companies instead of doing the licensing themselves. Although Chapter 28 of the city code specifically forbids this, the practice has continued until this year. Over the years, Checker managed to accumulate more medallions than cabs. It is these licenses that were being put on illegal cabs. In fact, at one point cabs and medallions were so plentiful that the FBI picked up 5 of each in order to drive around and gain "information." This practice has been stopped, according to Ms. Byrne's office.

While the subject of mandatory safety checks



Left: On November 3, 1974 a cab in poor condition rammed the front of the building at 901 W. Buena, after the driver was struck from behind and his accelerator stuck, killing two boys and injuring four others. **Right:** George Atkins, reporter for KEEP STRONG, this month talked to several cab drivers to find out their opinions on the current cab controversy.

on cabs has come before the city council numerous times, it was not until this year that the checks were made on a consistent basis. In the past the bill would usually end up in Alderman Vito Marzullo's transportation committee where it would die a quick death. Although safety checks have been implemented, their thoroughness is debatable. "As far as this new inspection goes, the personnel doing the inspection hasn't changed much. They are the same people you could go to and slip \$25, and they would pass you."

Union History And Union Busting

Checker and Yellow cab drivers were organized by the Seafarers' Union in 1961. The leader of the union was Dominick Abatta. Mr. Abatta had previously worked with the teamsters in Chicago when they were the cab drivers' union. Sometime before 1961, a struggle for control ensued within the Teamsters' local, and Abatta lost out to a man named Joe Glimco. Abatta then moved to the Seafarer's Union and, out-organizing Glimco, won the 1961 election between the Seafarers' Union and the Teamsters' Union over who would represent the cab drivers. In 1964 Abatta left, leaving Everet Clark in charge.

There are 3 ways to drive a cab — on your own,

leasing from the company or driving for a percentage of the meter. Since almost no drivers own their own cabs, most either lease or drive for the 42% of the meter take. Leasing involves paying the company a certain amount of money for use of the cab in return for keeping all the meter. All independent cabs are leased for \$25 a day. Recently Checker started leasing cabs for \$21 a day. Although Checker drivers are unionized if they work for a percentage, they are not covered if they lease cabs. This fact, according to many old time cab drivers, is the heart of the present controversy. Whereas Daley would allow Checker to raise its fares, store extra licenses, and operate unsafe cabs, the mayor would not allow "union busting" in the form of increased leasing. Daley told the companies to discourage leasing of their cabs. When they continued the practice, the mayor replaced the consumer commissioner to establish a clean record and acted on Checker Cab Company to persuade them to his point of view.

Caught between the company, the city, the union and serving the customer, cab drivers get the raw end. Since 42% of an 8 hour day doesn't amount to much, most drivers work 10 to 12 hours. Drivers working for percentage are required to "book" a minimum of \$45 to \$50 every time the cab is used, and those who lease cabs

have to pay their own gas and oil.

There are several things that drivers complain about: (1) In the last two contracts the union has not even negotiated to raise the pay of the workers. The companies are now making a 58% profit after labor costs which is among the highest percentage in any industry. (2) In order to qualify for a pension the driver must have worked for 20 consecutive years. Very few people drive for 20 years in a row although quite a few have driven for 20 years. The union has never tried to change this policy. (3) If robbed, the driver must pay out of his salary all that was lost. The safe provided in each cab is usually not used since a driver carrying some money is less likely to be hurt if robbed than someone who has almost no money outside the safe.

Pulling the Flag

In order to make any money the cabs must be moving all the time. Police harassment is common for minor incidents, and speeding is a problem because the customer is always watching the meter. About one-third of a driver's real income comes from tips. Because drivers are forced to look for a quantity of customers, most cabs stay in the loop, airport or on the near north side where the wealthier people live. When there is a fare increase the company makes more but the driver loses in quantity of rides and amount of tips. Thus, in the Black and poor areas of the city cab service is very poor. "It just doesn't pay to give poor people rides; the tips are less, and with fare increases, they are almost non-existent," explained one driver. Downtown this is noticeable by the number of cabs which pass up Black people trying to go south from the loop.

In the end, both the cab driver and the public lose. "Listen, this is the worst paying job I've ever had. I'm a truck driver, make \$7 an hour, but when I'm laid off, there is nothing else to do." □

TENANTS' RIGHTS

City's 24 Hour Heat Service A Fraud

The city's much advertised "24 hour emer-



Joyce Litzau with several of her children huddle around the stove in their unheated apartment to keep warm. Ms. Litzau called the city's "24 hour emergency heat service" and received no answer.

gency heat service" was exposed as a fraud this past month. In the early part of February, the heat at 4741 N. Kenmore was stopped because of a leak in the boiler. Joyce Litzau and her family, along with other residents were faced with a desperate situation.

Ms. Litzau's daughter, Cynthia, had the German Measles, a 105° fever, and could not be admitted to the hospital where their doctor works because it was overcrowded. "I had to cover the kids with blankets, coats, anything warm I could find," explained Ms. Litzau. Another woman in the building was forced to take her children to the movies at night to keep them warm.

The owner, who is planning to sell the building, said that he was trying to buy a new boiler, but could get no financing. On the third day still without heat the Mayor's "24 hour emergency heat service" was called. They said someone would be out that day. When no one came by five in the afternoon the office was called again. This time there was no answer.

Ms. Litzau contacted the 46th Ward Community Service Center. Paul Siegel, board

member of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, called city hall right away. He was told that no one stays in the emergency heat office past five in the afternoon if the temperature is above 14 degrees. It was 22 degrees at the time, and the weather bureau had predicted a low of under ten degrees that night. Mr. Siegel was also told that the emergency heat service does not send anyone to inspect for heat; they only contact the building department. He was assured that this agency would respond promptly.

The next day when still nobody from the building department had come, the owner of the building was reached by the Service Center staff. He agreed to temporarily fix the boiler until a new one could be purchased.

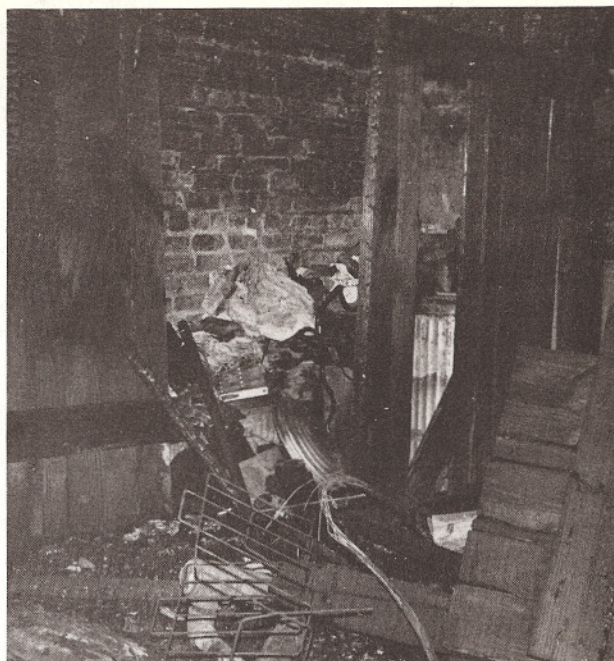
Three days after the heat was back on and eight full days after the city's "24 hour emergency heat service" was called, someone from the city finally came out. They did not look at the boiler or any part of the building. The "24 hour emergency heat service" does not exist on a 24 hour basis nor as an emergency service. Evidently, the Mayor's emergency service only operates under the eye of the TV cameras. □

ARSON WATCH

Lakeview: "Arson For Profit"

It happened in Lincoln Park, devastated Uptown and is now going on in Lakeview. It could either be called arson or urban renewal — take your pick. The end result is always the same — buildings burn, people move, rents are raised, and a small number of so-called real estate developers make a large killing.

Lakeview is a community in transition. It ranges from the rich to the poor; from high rent buildings to typical low-income housing. In the past two months there have been over thirty fires in Lakeview. Six people have died, many have moved, and some of the low-income housing is no longer there.



"It would be foolish to think, that in a building like 821 W. Cornelia (above), somebody doesn't know what's going on."

A quick glance at the building records will reveal that most of the land in the arson-plagued area of Lakeview is owned by a number of people or institutions, hiding behind building trusts. Not from the community, they are concerned only with profit. According to local realtors, "Land value is going up. Now is the time to buy."

The police say the fires are being set by one or more firebugs. Model Cities, in another one of its well-thought-out efforts, printed leaflets for beat representatives and precinct captains, and every community organization under the sun is offering advice on how to clean up to prevent fires.

It is impossible to say who is lighting the fires. It is very easy, though, to say who is benefiting from the fires. Not one modern apartment building has been burned. The structural damage is being done to the older buildings. Landlords who could not raise rents because of CHA leases with their tenants no longer have to worry; the tenants have moved. Buildings once containing the remaining poor people are being renovated or torn down due to fire. Rents are rising everywhere. As one community resident noted, "Arson for profit strikes again."

There is no doubt the situation is serious. People's lives are at stake. In a building like 821 W. Cornelia, which burned, killing one person, two days after Ms. Doris Smith bought it, it would be foolish to think someone doesn't know what's going on. □

CONSUMER WATCH

Consumer Clubs Still Making False Promises

Door-to-door salespeople and telephone canvassers for various consumer clubs with beautifully laid out brochures and well-rehearsed sales pitches have approached many people throughout Chicago and especially in the oppressed communities. The clubs offer great discounts of brand new merchandise at close to cost prices, warehouses in the metropolitan area from which to choose the merchandise, financing through the company and the ability to purchase anything from kitchen stoves to cars. Many people have bought the bait. They've paid \$400-\$500 to join clubs only to find high cost merchandise, exorbitant interest rates and usually catalogs to order from instead of warehouses filled with merchandise.

As reported in *KEEP STRONG* (Vol. 1, No. 7; February, 1976), Attorney General Scott's office has received several grievances against the Consumers Guild of America, Inc., 5555 St. Charles Rd., Berkeley, Ill., as well as three other firms: Consumers Cooperative Club, 4142 W. Lawrence Ave.; Consumer Group Purchase Plan, 3834 W. Irving Park Rd.; and United Consumer Club, 1937 Oakton Place, Des Plaines, Ill. These firms were all identified during February as having similar practices.

Claiming no authority to prosecute, the Attorney General's office has investigated these four clubs and issued a consumer alert based on its findings; a survey was conducted of 10 common household appliances, and the price paid by club members was found to be as much as 1.6% higher than the cost of the same appliances in local department stores. Adding this to the high annual membership fee, a club member could be paying as much as 50% more on a single purchase.

In spite of these findings and the consumer alert, the clubs still claim great savings. One community resident was recently assured of a 5% to 10% savings on appliances by Mr. Stritzkee, an employee of the Consumers Guild of

America, Inc., and many people are still being contacted.

KEEP STRONG learned this week that information concerning the buying clubs has been turned over to the Federal Trade Commission for further scrutiny and possible prosecution. □

Ill. Bell Rate Increases Blasted

In what has been described as an instance of corporate control of state government, the Illinois Commerce Commission early this month granted a rate increase to the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. The authorization will allow the telephone company to make up to \$250 million more a year.

Opponents of the rate increases granted to the company have filed a rehearing request with the Illinois Commerce Commission seeking to negate the increase. The request was filed by the Welfare Rights Organization of Illinois and



The phone rate increase allows Bell Telephone Co. to make up to \$250 million a year.

Chicago, and is in response to the new rate increases recently authorized by the ICC allowing Bell to collect 20 cents instead of 10 cents for pay phone calls and 10 cents to call information.

While the company was forced to halt conversion of pay phones because of failure to post Spanish instructions along with the new rate changes at each phone, the company is expected to meet the requirements in all phones within two months.

Opponents of the increase have charged Gov. Walker with "once again favoring special interest groups" and "one more instance of the commission brutalizing the general public, which is already subsidizing business telephone users." The statement refers to the fact that Gov. Walker appoints the commissioners who govern utility rates.

Bell has also come under attack from labor unions for collecting taxes from the public, but not paying the government any taxes. Harry E. Conlon of the Graphic Arts Union said that at the end of 1974, Bell was holding \$190 million in such tax monies. Conlon also charged that the increase in rates will result in large unemployment of information operators since less people will make use of the service.

Officials from the ICC were not available for comment. However one informed source told *KEEP STRONG* "I think it's a rip off. All it does is make the poor people who can't afford their own phones pay more." □

LEGAL RIGHTS

New Court Rulings Threaten Basic Rights

A recent decision by the Illinois State Supreme Court and a new bill passed by the state

legislature are being seen as having severe repercussions (effects) upon poor and oppressed people. The court decision was that supervision be eliminated while the new law states that if found guilty a person must pay all court costs.

No longer able to use supervision, courts are required to give a flat sentence, so much on top and so much on bottom. The sentence may be carried out through service to a social agency. Lawyers say the use of the flat sentence has been pushed by David Fogel. Fogel is the head of ILEC (Illinois Law Enforcement Commission) and has been working hard to institute his program of determinate sentencing.

Supporters of the legislation say the flat sentence is more humane because it relieves any questions as to length of sentence. Critics say the bill is harsh and will result in more overcrowding especially in juvenile correction centers. Pointing to conditions in poor communities which make confrontations with the court system almost inevitable, these critics say the new law will be unfair to first offenders. Whereas in the past supervision was a possibility, now, regardless of extenuating circumstances, these offenders will have to be sentenced to some form of punishment ranging from probation to doing time.

The Supreme Court decision that required payment of court costs by anyone found guilty reverses an earlier ruling by Judge Austin. The Austin decision found that it is impossible to set court costs on an equal basis and therefore, to try to do so would violate the right to equal protection.

Legal workers say the decision is very unfair and will have an adverse effect especially on poor people since the court costs will come out of bond money. In some cases, the advocates say, the bond money represents food money for the week, rent money, or money borrowed from friends or relatives. This money cannot be replaced, and with high court costs, families of convicted persons will lose their very badly needed savings.

As the costs increase with the length and type of trial, the tendency will be for people to avoid exercising their legal rights such as a jury trial. Instead, the trend will be towards the shortest trial possible, decreasing the possibility of a fair trial for those who can't afford justice. The ruling also means that money once available to pay attorneys will no longer be there, and new sources of payment for decent legal protection will have to be found. □

POLICE WATCH

Family Of Slain Youth Sues Police

The family of Eskler Tobler, Jr., a 17 year old Black youth killed by a policeman on August 15, 1975, has filed a \$5,000,000 civil suit here with the assistance of the West Englewood Community Organization, against Officer Moylan, Superintendent James M. Rochford, the city of Chicago and the officers who conducted the Chicago Police Department investigation of the killing. The federal action charges that Moylan illegally and without justification, shot Eskler Tobler to death. It claims that Rochford and the city of Chicago also shared in the responsibility for the killing, and that the investigating officers conspired to and did destroy important evidence.

While the police account of the killing states that 17 year old Tobler was shot while trying to run down Moylan in his own squad car, community residents present during the incident say this is not true. Instead, the witnesses state that in response to a neighborhood disturbance in the racially tense atmosphere of West Englewood, Officer Moylan drove his police car to 6815 S. Winchester, double-parked it with the keys still in the ignition, drew both his guns and proceeded down the street asking people about the disturbance.

At this time the young Tobler had climbed into the police car. When Moylan saw this he began shooting his two guns at the car shouting, "Nigger, get out of my goddamn car." As he was shooting, the car started to move slowly down the street. Moylan, still shooting, pursued the car. After travelling one block, the car side-swiped a parked car and came to a halt. Moylan pulled Tobler out of the car, and was about to hit him when the youth let out a groan and collapsed at the policeman's feet. Eskler Lee Tobler, Jr. was thrown into the back of a squadrol and pronounced dead on arrival at Holy Cross Hospital.

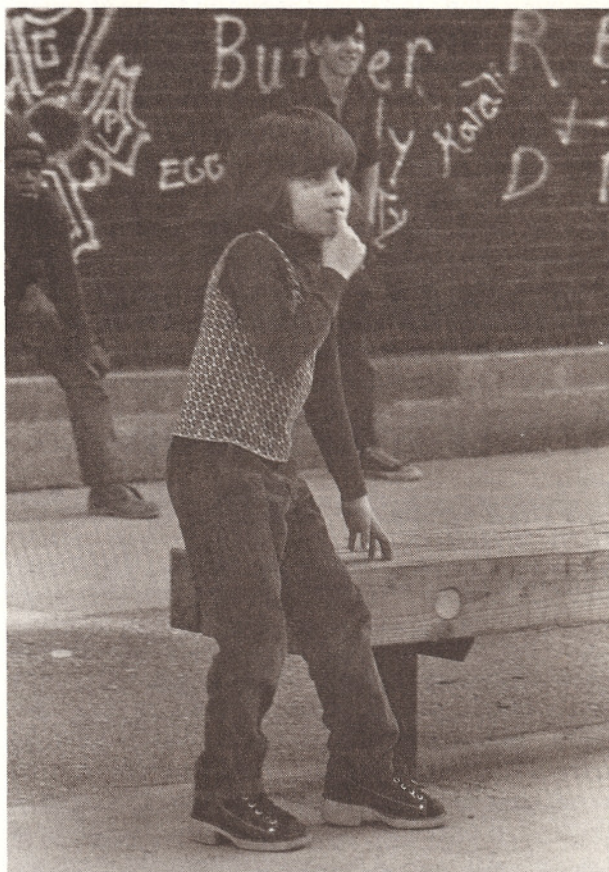
The State's Attorney's office responded quickly ruling the slaying "justifiable homicide," before a coroner's inquest was held. When this

inquest was finally held, eyewitness testimony by many community residents proving that Moylan's life was never endangered by the 17 year old youth, fell on deaf ears and the killing was again ruled "justifiable homicide." Despite demands for further investigation, the United States Attorney's office concluded its investigation and refused to recommend that any federal charges be filed. □

8 Year Old Youth Assaulted

The already tense situation on the Sunnyside Mall (see *KEEP STRONG*; Vol. 1, No. 5) between 20th district police and community residents was aggravated the week of February 15th when a young child was literally dragged by his hair 100 feet by a Chicago police officer.

Michael Bowling, eight years old, was playing on the Mall with friends after school. Michael noticed a police car pull up on the Mall. When one of the officers got out of the car and started to



"They told me they would take him to Audy Home and lock him up."

walk towards him, Michael got scared and started to go the other way. The officer chased Michael, caught him, and according to community residents, "dragged him by his hair back to police car." The police car was over 100 feet from where the officer stopped Michael.

When a neighbor told Mrs. Bowling what had happened she immediately went outside to ensure her son's safety. Walking over to the police car, Mrs. Bowling was met with verbal insults and threats. "They told me they would take him to Audy Home and lock him up. I told them they would be in big trouble if they tried," stated Mrs. Bowling.

Since the police had no legal reason to apprehend Michael to begin with, and faced with people from the community who had seen the incident, they released Michael. No explanation for the officer's actions was ever offered to Mrs. Bowling.

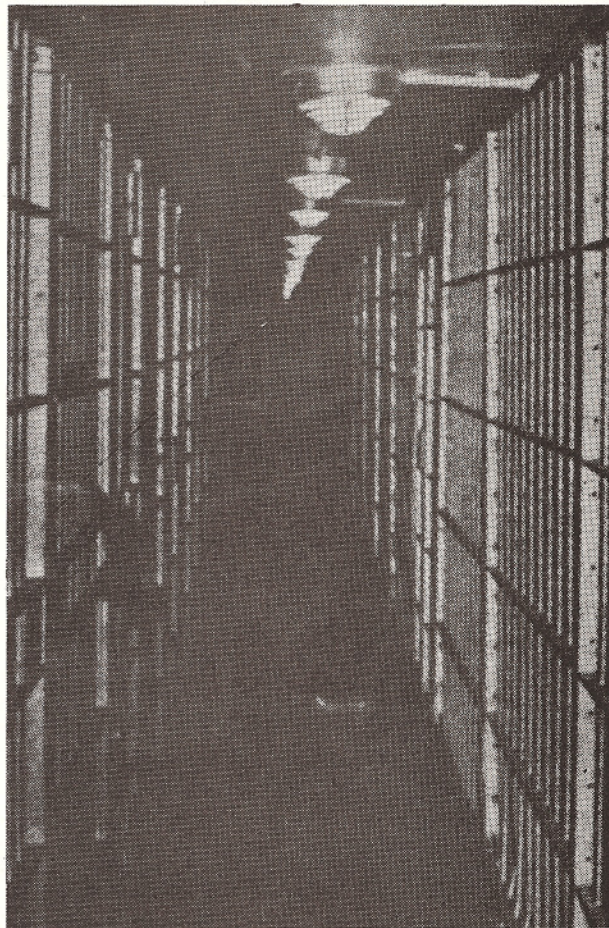
The Mall which is a concrete slab extending from Magnolia Street to Beacon Street on Sunnyside was built by the city to complement the new Northeast Community College. Since its completion several complaints of police abuse have been filed, and it has been the focus of much community concern. Commander Kernan of the 20th district police department, speaking about the Mall, has stated his intention "to run it" calling the people of the neighborhood "trash and scum." □

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Arbitrary Action Charged At State Segregation Unit

The Segregation Unit at Joliet State Prison presently houses 14 inmates and is located in this state's oldest prison complex built in the late 1800's. Inmates are confined to their cells 24 hours a day. Showers and yard exercise can be taken once a week except during the winter when yard exercise is curtailed due to the cold weather. All food is served through the bars.

Many inmates who have experienced segrega-



In the Segregation Unit at Joliet even interviews are carried out through cell bars.

tion complain of the arbitrary nature of charges made that land them there in the first place. Once put in segregation, grievance procedures are indifferent to inmate problems, many claim, and even interviews are carried out through cell bars rather than a private business-like meeting that inmates feel they have a just right to.

Many examples of arbitrary and insensitive action by jail personnel have been documented by participants in such programs as the Illinois Prisons and Jails Project which make regular investigative visits to prisons throughout Illinois.

One such example is the case of an inmate who has been incarcerated for the last 12 years. "Obviously unable to deal with segregation," says one of the organization's participants, "this brother has been removed to the detention hospital three times for evaluations. Each time he's been sent back to segregation. There has been no concern shown or initiative taken to attempt to deal with the brother's problems which are visibly aggravated by the intense atmosphere and inhumane conditions present in the Segregation Unit." □

Investigation Of Inmate Death At Terre Haute

A six month investigation into the death of Yusuf, a Black Sunni Muslim leader inside the federal prison at Terre Haute, Indiana, has revealed twelve medical errors by the prison medical staff in a period of 17 days.

The investigation, conducted by prisoners, ex-prisoners and lawyers, consisted of: 1) the exhumation of the body and an independent autopsy; 2) obtaining the medical records from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons; 3) having a physician and the pathologist study the medical records and the autopsy findings and; 4) doing interviews with prisoners who worked or who were patients in the prison hospital at the time of Yusuf's death. It found:

- that drugs such as Thorazine were administered by prison personnel other than doctors or registered nurses;
- that prison officials ignored a recommendation by a local hospital physician urging Yusuf's transfer to a prison in a drier climate and one that had adequate facilities to treat his acute asthmatic condition and;
- that Yusuf was "examined" by a prison doctor who "followed" his patient's situation by phone, prescribing medicine and making diagnoses without ever seeing him in person.

Yusuf, a 30 year old Chicagoan, was the fourth prisoner to die in the medical facility at Terre Haute in a seven month period in 1975. (See *KEEP STRONG*, Vol. 1, No. 3; October, 1975). Medical care has been a key issue to prisoners at Terre Haute the past three years, which is evidenced by the fact that there have been two work stoppages over that period of time protesting the poor quality of health care and inadequate medical facilities.

C.L. Benson, the warden at Terre Haute during the recent deaths, has brought reprisal transfers to the prisoners who talked to lawyers about Yusuf's death. One of the prisoners who worked in the prison hospital and who talked to lawyers investigating Yusuf's death, was denied parole for seeing the lawyers.

A lawsuit is being filed this month by Yusuf's

mother to expose the inadequacy of medical care and medical facilities in the federal prison system, and at Terre Haute in particular. A congressional sub-committee is being asked to investigate deaths in the federal prison system, focusing first on Terre Haute. Organizers of the case want to get a panel of medical experts into the federal prison system to examine the facilities and health care afforded prisoners, and to have the panel make recommendations as to how to upgrade the inadequate facilities and poor health care that now prisoners must live with.

Since all four of the prisoners who died at Terre Haute were Black, and because the situation at Terre Haute is representative of that in any jail or prison across the country, organizers of the case want to show how racism was the real cause for these medical deaths. □

For more information contact: Hard Times Prison Project, 53 W. Jackson, Room 1601, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Tel. (312) 341-0539.

Court Action Taken On County Jail

U.S. District Court Judge Frank S. McGrass recently impounded \$760,000 in surplus Cook County funds because of a class action suit charging that the county is failing to provide adequate mental health care for its jail inmates.

The suit originally filed in November, 1974 by former inmates Gary Harrington and Robert Jones, alleges that they and 200 inmates suffered "irreparable harm" by being denied adequate health care.

Cook County Jail is considered to be one of the worst in the country. Lack of decent health facilities, nourishing food, and severe overcrowding have been constant criticisms of both inmates and jail observers (see *KEEP STRONG*, Vol. 1, No. 7). County Board President George Dunne, avoiding the issue of conditions at the jail, would only comment on the financial loss to the county.

Judge McGrass did not specify how long the impoundment would last, stating "the funds should be preserved in the event a subsequent court order requires their expenditure to improve mental health care in the jail." □

FIGHTING CITY HALL

ISC Takes Position On 3 Important Races: Endorses Metcalf, Levin

Intercommunal Survival Committee coordinator Slim Coleman announced support for two political candidates last month and urged the community to vote against Joseph Power for the Illinois Supreme Court.

The ISC feels the upcoming race for 1st district congressman is the most important race in the city. Metcalfe, an independent who distinguished himself by opposing Daley in exposing police brutality two years ago, is facing a massive challenge by a machine candidate. "Daley is attempting to show the community that no one can criticize him and survive. It is our responsibility to see that Metcalfe remains in office."

A second endorsement was given by the ISC to Ellis Levin running as an independent in the democratic primary for state representative in the 12th district which includes Lakeview and Uptown. "Levin has been a frequent participant in ISC community forums and has shown a willingness to seek out and be accountable to the needs and desires of the community," said Coleman. "Levin's opponents include two machine hacks, one whose main claim to fame is that

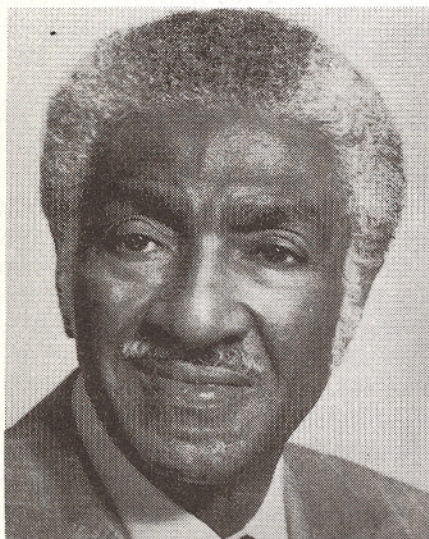
his father is a judge and the other who has twiddled his thumbs in Model Cities' council meetings while speculators and developers raped Uptown. If you live in the 12th district, I urge you to cast a bullet vote (instead of splitting the vote between two candidates) for Levin. Just pull the lever down for Levin and walk out of the booth."

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also took note that the Chicago Council of Lawyers had found Joseph Power unqualified for the post of Illinois Supreme Court justice. Power, the Mayor's former law partner, was said by the prestigious lawyers' group "not to have displayed the legal competence . . . judicial temperament . . . (and) requisite political independence needed on the top court." Noting that Power attempted to obstruct the trial of Hanrahan for the murder of Fred Hampton and was involved with Daley in covering for the use of the Mayor's personal intelligence agent, John Clarke, the ISC urges everyone to "vote down Power." □

Beat Rep Program Expanded By City Council

After a heated debate, City Council voted 47 - 1 to seek a \$1.55 million federal grant to open 22 neighborhood storefronts and expand the beat representative program. The controversial program currently has 2,400 beat reps and would be expanded to 10,000.

Demanding public safeguards, independent



It is our responsibility to see that Metcalfe (far left) remains in office.

"Levin - a willingness to seek out and be accountable to the needs of the community."

Alderman Dick Simpson (44th Ward) proposed four measures that would make the program more responsible to the community. The measures proposed include: (1) public meetings to replace the closed meetings that now go on between the police department and beat representatives; (2) the current practice of using precinct captains as beat representatives should be stopped; (3) the names of beat representatives should be made public (In some police districts they are now only available to the police department); (4) rather than being appointed by the police department as is presently done, the nominating procedures should be open to the community.

In spite of Simpson's sound suggestions, the council took its final vote. Simpson was the only Alderman present to vote against the proposal.

The controversial program has been the object of much criticism since its inception over two years ago. (See *KEEP STRONG*, Vol. 1, No. 2) Hailed by the police department as something that "draws the whole community together," the program has been under constant attack by numerous community organizations and independent politicians as both a "political tool in the hands of Mayor Daley" and a "paid spy system" for the police department. □

Robinson Blasts Daley's "Good Will Gesture"

Blasting Mayor Richard J. Daley's "good will gesture" of agreeing to hire 400 new police officers according to a sex and race quota as "no gesture at all" and just an election ploy, Afro-American Patrolmen's League Director Renault Robinson said that the hiring of 400 new policemen has nothing to do with the extended hiring quota system imposed by Judge Prentice Marshall in early January.

Marshall's landmark ruling has resulted in \$95 million in revenue sharing funds being withheld from the city of Chicago until the police department acts to end race and sex bias in its hiring and promotion policies. The order was issued because of the city's failure to take any sincere action to correct the racial and sex bias in the police department. (See *KEEP STRONG*, Vol. 1, No. 7.)



Renault Robinson: "Daley's gesture was just an election ploy."

"We have no evidence yet that the new police exam administered last April is fair and unbiased. We only have Daley's word on that, and the full results have not been turned over to the court," said Robinson.

Judge Marshall has told the mayor that if the city really wants the revenue sharing money, it must sit down with both federal and AAPL attorneys. As yet the mayor has been unwilling to do this.

Robinson also criticized the releasing of 9,000 names of applicants who passed the police exam as raising false expectations. "The idea of him (Daley) saying 9,000 people are eligible for police jobs just one week before a primary is ridiculous. Daley is going to confuse everyone with this raw information, and he seems to have lost sight of the fact that the April test has not been approved by Judge Marshall."

Meanwhile, the AAPL announced it has raised \$17,000 in response to a recent notice from the Internal Revenue Service which stated that the League owed \$17,000 in back taxes. The bulk of the money was raised at a luncheon at the Soul Queen Restaurant on South Stoney Island. The IRS notice has been criticized as an example of conscious harassment by a governmental agency since a previous arrangement with the AAPL had been worked out concerning the money. □

HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

City Shifts Rehab Funds To Model Cities

In the face of two years of demands that funds be committed to rehabilitating low-income buildings, hiring local residents to do so, the city is still "stonewalling it." Recently the Organization of the New City located on the southwest side met with Commissioner Lewis Hill, demanding that Community Development Act funds be shifted immediately into rehab programs.

While Hill promised to immediately send a letter detailing plans, it is well known that the city's rehab program is going nowhere fast. Hill stated that rehab money was not being used because there was a lack of skilled labor to do the work — with 30% unemployment?

At the same time a broad coalition of community organizations around the city charged last month that the city's plan to amend its first year federally-funded Community Development Program by diverting approximately \$9 million from approved activities to Model Cities programs was improper. The coalition charged that the city must provide for citizen participation before it can make such an amendment. It appears that Hill is going to scrap part of the approved plan and divert money that could be used for rehab and community development into patronage jobs in Model Cities. □

Rent Aid Plan — Few To Benefit

The Chicago Housing Authority announced that it will begin a federally-funded rent subsidy program for low and moderate-income people on March 1. To qualify for the program a person must have an annual income that is less than 80% of the median income for his or her family size in the Chicago area — \$13,500 for a family of six,

\$14,300 for a family of eight and \$15,900 for eight or more persons. A family below the income limits qualifies for the program and should be able to receive a substantial rent subsidy each month. If you are on the program, in most cases you will pay no more than 25% of your monthly income for rent, and the subsidy will cover the rest.

CHA announced that to apply for the program you should call CHA at 791-4644 between March 1 and March 14 and request that a registration form be mailed to you. What the CHA announcement did not say is that although there are 905,000 people eligible for the rent subsidy program in Chicago alone, according to official city statistics, CHA is only going to register 571 people on the program this year. Of these, 228 will be elderly people or couples, and 343 will be families. 25% of the applicants must be CHA residents already, 25% must be on the CHA waiting list, and 50% must be new applicants.

So it appears that 904,429 people who legally qualify for this program passed by Congress in 1974 are out of luck. The reason? CHA says that it does not have the money. Echoing the growing anger about the hundreds of thousands who are being shortchanged, one community leader said, "I didn't pass the law. They did. Now they are going to have to find the money. They can take it out of the CIA budget for all I care." □

Heat Crisis At Stateway Gardens

More than 1,600 families have had no heat at night and only three hours of hot water a day for weeks at the Stateway Gardens housing project. Three of the seven boilers have been shut down to repair leaking tubes, and a procedure of "heat rationing" was established to allow those few functioning to be refilled during the evening hours.

Children have been reporting to day care centers in large numbers with flu and pneumonia, according to teachers, and residents report that they are staying warm by burning gas stoves through the night. This is the second winter in a row that heat failures have occurred at Stateway, and management admits to have known well ahead of time that a crisis situation was coming on. □

JOIN THE UNION!

1st Meeting Of The Uptown Tenants Survival Union Held

One more step was made last month in building an organized city-wide resistance to the city's policy of relentlessly driving the poor from one neighborhood to another. The founding meeting of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union was held on Saturday, February 21, and the substantial turnout of tenants enthusiastically discussing the first few months' plan of action indicates the union is off to a highly successful beginning.

Organizers of the new tenants union point out that the foundation for the union has been laid in several years of active community struggle over housing issues as well as in the City-wide Tenants Conference held in January. At the January conference guidelines were discussed for tenant organization, and a 10 point program was established around which tenants unions across the city can mobilize and focus their demands for decent housing and an end to the "urban removal" policies of the city. The Uptown

group is organized around these guidelines and sees the 10 point program as a set of concrete goals to work towards.

Referring to the struggles against the destruction of low-income housing by the city college on Racine and Wilson, Chaddick's "regional shopping center," and developers like William Thompson, it was pointed out that Uptown tenants have been long in the struggle. The Cha-Cha Jimenez aldermanic campaign, which focused on urban renewal as its key issue, developed a strong community apparatus on a block-by-block basis ready to join the fight for decent housing. All that remained was to create a formal organizational structure.

Survival is the Watchword

Throughout the Saturday meeting, "survival" was the watchword. In fact, the meeting began as



The substantial turnout of tenants enthusiastically discussing the first few months' plan of action indicates the union is off to a highly successful beginning.

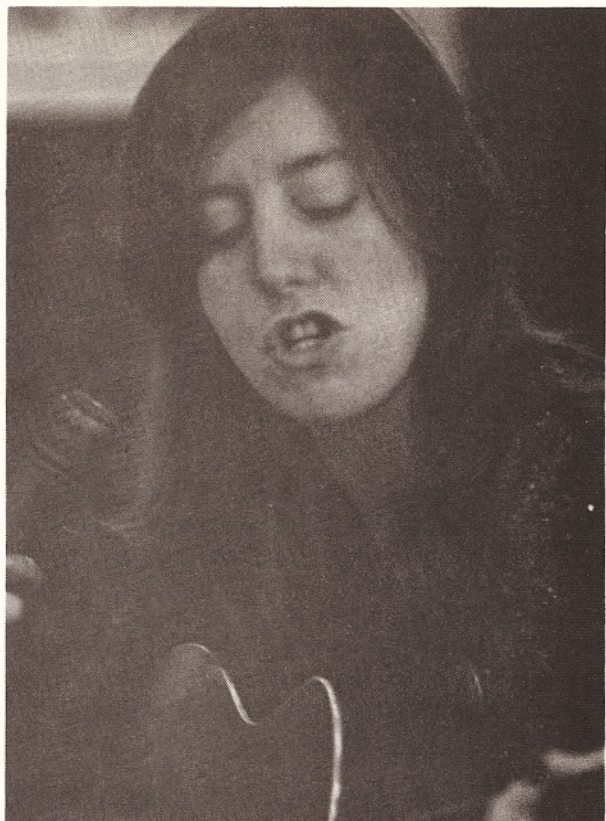
popular community entertainer Kim Nash sang some of her original compositions to an attentive and appreciative audience. Kim's "Hard Times" truly hit home when she sang, "If we have to cook together, that's what we'll do; if we have to put our money together, we're going to do that, too." Following sister Nash, the meeting was addressed by Ms. Marion Stamps, director of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization. CHTO had been a co-sponsor of the City-wide Tenants Conference, and she explained that the situation facing tenants in public housing is adding to the overall crisis in the city. She proposed that tenants in public and private housing unify to stop "poor people evacuation plans" like the "Chicago 21." In a speech designed to inspire strength in the upcoming struggle, the well-respected tenant leader drew strong applause when she said, "We're here basically because of the children. If it weren't for the children, and I've got five of them, I don't know if I would be staying with it, but we owe it to them not to leave things the way they were left for us."

The Tenants Union Board

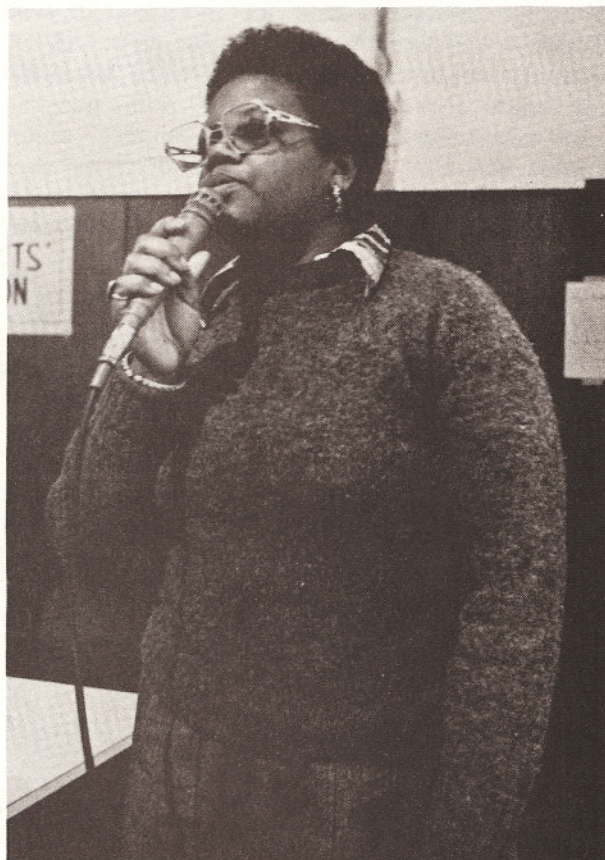
After Ms. Stamps spoke, ISC coordinator Slim Coleman introduced the new tenant union board, which is comprised of nine dedicated community residents. The board will take responsibility for guiding the development of the tenants union until its first convention. Board member Ollie Murphy announced that the first task of the union is to build tenant clubs in buildings throughout the community. A requirement of membership in the tenants union is that each new member make a commitment to hold a first meeting in his or her building if a tenant club does not yet exist there.

The building clubs, as explained by the board, are the heart of the union. They will function as survival groups, buying food together through food cooperatives, carrying on other such activities, and working to solve neighborhood problems as well as dealing with specific conditions in the buildings. It was emphasized that "the enemy" is not the small landlord, but the big developers and the city power structure; in many cases the tenant clubs may vote a resident landlord into the club and work cooperatively with him or her in improving living conditions. Slumlords like Gutman obviously have no place in the union.

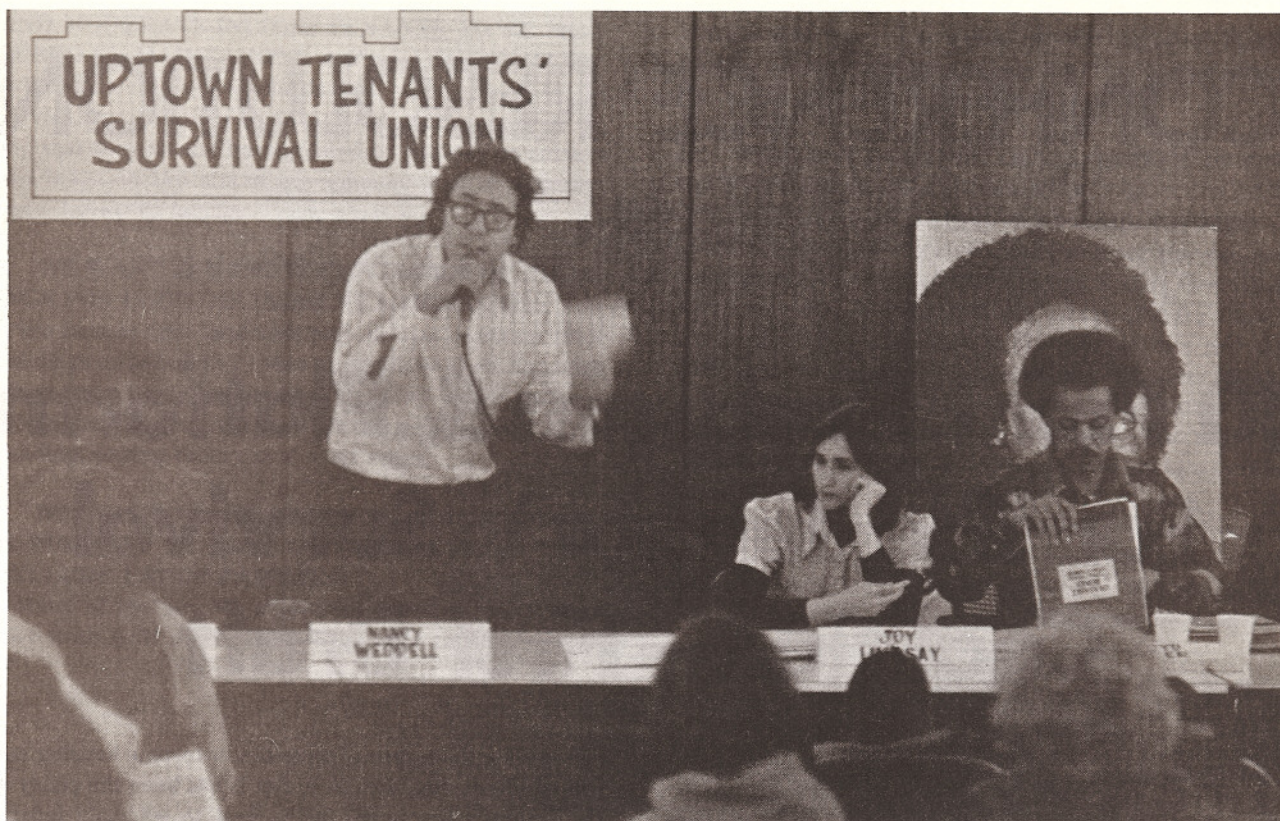
A strong asset to the tenants organization is the 46th Ward Community Service Center. The union board oversees the operation of the Service Center which has already been functioning for a



Kim Nash: "If we have to cook together, that's what we'll do."



Marion Stamps: "We're here basically because of the children."



With survival as the basic day-to-day watchword and a clear set of demands against the power structure, Uptown tenants are out to prove that "In unity there is power."

year offering legal assistance, welfare defense and many other necessary services. The Service Center has recently opened a special night each week for tenants' rights counseling, in addition to the two nights on which the regular legal program already operates. Center staff will be available to assist tenants union members in getting action out of the courts, the city agencies and other such institutions in the community.

After lively and informative discussion about problems likely to be encountered in organizing building clubs, the majority of the meeting's participants lined up to register their membership and pay \$1 a year dues. General tenants union meetings will be held the third Saturday morning of each month, but already in the few days following the union kick-off, building meetings were held in several different neighborhoods.

It appears that a solid organizing drive is underway among Uptown tenants involving all sectors of the oppressed community, that is linked to the developing city-wide movement. With survival as the basic day-to-day watchword and a clear set of demands against the power structure, Uptown tenants are out to prove that "in unity there is power." □

MOVING

Movin' again, damn! speed on before you be peed on. What are we, urban nomads? Mass exoduses fleeing just before the big iron ball. Running from sub-standard, No standard housing.

We run frantically from building to building Plagued by the same old thangs — absentee landlord, apartments designed to stay in tact until after security is paid.

Emergency numbers for no heat, roaches, health hazards, see you in 3 to 5 days, signed the Phantom inspector.

right?? be this can tenants rights,
No! No!! rights,
tenants rights

We must take a stand. There are no low-income yachts on Lake Michigan. Where do you flee after you have fled??

All Power To The People

A Poem by Lloyd Parker

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION



10 Point Program & Platform For The Tenant's Survival Coalition—First Draft

1. WE WANT A FULL RENT SUBSIDY FOR ALL TENANTS ELIGIBLE UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE 1974 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT.

We believe the government has an obligation to provide decent housing for everyone and that it has made the promise to do so in the 1974 Housing & Community Development Act. Section 8 of this Act provides that rent subsidies be given to millions of low and moderate-income tenants so that they would not pay more than 25% ($\frac{1}{4}$) of their income for rent. In Chicago, the city admits that 905,000 tenants are eligible but funds are allocated for only 571 tenants. We believe subsidies should be provided for all those eligible and that funds can be taken from the massive and unnecessary national defense budget.

2. WE WANT A MORATORIUM ON THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S SALE OF PUBLIC HOUSING OR OTHER TACTICS OF VACATING PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WITHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF UNITS OF QUALITY, NEW PUBLIC HOUSING.

We believe the city has an obligation to maintain the current public housing in good condition until they provide quality public housing for tenants to relocate in. This is not the current policy of the city which has already sold some sections of public housing to private developers and has plans to sell more.

3. WE WANT A MORATORIUM ON CITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS USING FEDERAL MONIES UNTIL A 6% VACANCY RATE IN LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING IS ACHIEVED.

We believe that plans like the Chicago 21 Plan are

eliminating thousands of units of low-income housing and using federal monies to do it. But it has been the policy of the federal government in the past to withhold federal money to local projects which displaced tenants where there has been less than a 6% vacancy rate until replacement housing was built. There is currently only a 3% vacancy rate in the city of Chicago.

4. WE WANT A MINIMUM OF 30,000 UNITS OF SENIOR HOUSING BUILT IMMEDIATELY.

We believe that the thousands of senior citizens now on CHA waiting lists should receive first priority and be given the right to live in decent, quality housing, with full services that they have earned through their lives.

5. WE WANT A MORATORIUM ON INCREASES IN COSTS TO TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN PUBLIC AID AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

We believe that because many of the tenants in public housing are on fixed incomes, the increase in costs to tenants provided for in the new lease are inhuman and resulting in slow murder.

6. WE WANT TENANT'S CONTROL OF LEASING, MANAGEMENT, MODERNIZATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY PROCEDURES IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

We believe that CHA's control of these functions is leading to divisions among tenants, corruption, inefficiency, and often follows a policy of driving tenants from public housing.

7. WE WANT A SYSTEM OF RENT CONTROL TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN HOUSING FOR LOW

AND MODERATE-INCOME TENANTS TO BE MEASURED BY MAINTAINING A 6% VACANCY RATE.

We believe that landlords are providing a public service, just as utility and transportation companies do, and that they should be regulated by the city to achieve and maintain the stated government goal of a decent home for every family.

8. WE WANT TENANT RECEIVERSHIP OF BUILDINGS FOR CODE-DELINQUENT LANDLORDS.

We believe that landlords who do not maintain their buildings up to building codes should have their buildings taken away from them and placed in the receivership of the tenants who would take over the management of the building, paying costs out of their rents.

9. WE WANT ANY NEW PUBLIC HOUSING THAT IS BUILT TO BE FREE OF RESTRICTIONS THAT EXCLUDE LARGE FAMILIES.

Many of the new "scattered site" housing units that have been built restrict the number of tenants so that

families with more than 2 children are excluded. This is unjust and does not fit the housing needs of the tenants of Chicago.

10. WE WANT PLANNED DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY TO PRESERVE THE MAJORITY LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS OF EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS.

We believe that the city should enforce the planned development ordinance of the Chicago Zoning Ordinance which says that a planned development of more than 2 acres must be in line with government policies and the desires of the people in the community. The city should stop developers who wipe out low and moderate-income housing for poor and minority tenants with plans to replace these buildings with upper and middle-income developments.

We recognize that there is a problem in the city with a declining tax base and increasing need for services. We believe this problem should be solved by bringing more jobs back into the city, not by driving out the unemployed to be unemployed somewhere else.



BREAKTHROUGH IN HAMPTON MURDER

FBI Role Revealed



Fred Hampton

"Hearing a knock at the door, Truelock (a plaintiff) said, 'Who's there?' Answer: 'Tommy. 'Tommy who?' 'Tommy m-f,' and then bang, bang, bang and breaking in the doors. Armed with a submachine gun, a 30 cal. carbine, several shotguns and personal as well as official sidearms, police broke into the apartment unannounced. Of 99 shots fired, only one can be said to have possibly been fired by the occupants of the apartment."

With these words, prominent attorney James Montgomery described the events of the Dec. 4th, 1969 raid where Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed. Montgomery is the lead attorney in a \$47 million suit against local, state and federal officials on behalf of the families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the survivors of the attack on the Black Panther Party apartment.

Montgomery went on to describe the raid to an electrified courtroom. "Officer Gorman with the submachine gun and officer Davis with the carbine, stitched the wall to Fred's bedroom at bed level. While firing, Gorman asked officer Jones to look into the room and see if the bullets were coming through. He said they were.

"Deborah Johnson, 8 months pregnant, lay in bed trying to wake Fred. Even though the mattress vibrated from the impact of the bullets, he never did more than raise his head for a few seconds." (There is evidence that Hampton was drugged.)

The police removed everyone from the bedroom where Fred Hampton slept. Deborah Johnson heard someone say, "He's barely alive, and he'll barely make it." Then she heard more gunfire and someone said, "He's good and dead now."

These are the known facts of those few

minutes six years ago that have enraged all sectors of the oppressed and justice-minded community and created the atmosphere of angry demand that has finally resulted in the civil suit being heard in federal court before Judge Samuel Perry. Yet behind these facts is a spidery web of plots and conspiracies involving the Federal Bureau of Investigation that is coming to light for the first time in the pending civil suit. Fred Hampton's dedication to unmasking the true face of the American brand of fascism to millions of oppressed people in this country is bearing fruit in these long months of trial in the federal building.

The FBI Cointelpro

For nearly three weeks attorney Montgomery battered away at the first witness, Marlin Johnson, who was the special agent-in-charge of the Chicago office of the FBI. Johnson attempted to "stonewall" Montgomery's probing questions in characteristic watergate fashion, frequently reciting "I don't recall," and "I have no independent recollection." Nevertheless, a surprise ruling by Judge Perry allowing the plaintiffs to subpoena and enter into evidence internal FBI memoranda and instructions provided a startling breakthrough in the case against the FBI.

"While firing, Gorman asked officer Jones to see if the bullets were coming through. He said they were . . . Deborah Johnson heard someone say, 'He's barely alive, and he'll barely make it.' Then she heard more gunfire, and someone said, 'He's good and dead now.'"





Lead attorney for the plaintiffs, James Montgomery (left) has confronted ex-FBI head Marlin Johnson (right) with the FBI's own documents on COINTELPRO.

Through use of the documents and through examination of the witness Johnson, Montgomery has established in evidence that J. Edgar Hoover had ordered all FBI offices to focus in on the Black Panther Party, outlining a counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) designed to constrain and cripple the Party, to prevent its growth in the community and to "prevent the rise of a Black Messiah who could electrify the Black masses."

In carrying out this counterintelligence program, it has now been established that the FBI sent an anonymous letter to Blackstone Ranger head Jeff Fort, telling him that the leadership of the Black Panther Party had a "hit out on him." Although internal FBI documents state that the letter will hopefully cause Fort to "take retribution" against the leaders of the Party and "cause harm to be done to the persons of the leadership and to the organization," former special agent-in-charge Johnson maintained on the stand that the purpose of the letter was "strictly non-violent" causing astonishment in the courtroom and ridicule in the local papers.

Johnson further revealed that as part of the COINTELPRO the FBI had caused Hampton to be arrested at the site of a television interview. The aging FBI man, now head of the Chicago Police Board, admitted that the purpose of this action was to prevent Hampton from expressing his views and philosophy to thousands in the T.V. audience.

Testimony and documents in evidence further showed that the FBI had gotten William O'Neal to infiltrate the Chicago Chapter. O'Neal was used explicitly to take direct counterintelligence actions against the Party, attempting to cause divisions between the Black Panther Party and other community groups. Johnson testified that O'Neal had provided a floor plan to the FBI which

was later turned over to the State's Attorney's raiding party. The floor plan contained an "X" on the spot where Fred Hampton slept.

A document dated November 21, 1969 and directed to the Washington office of the FBI states that all weapons in the apartment at 2337 W. Monroe were legally purchased by female members of the Black Panther Party without criminal records. The evidence showed that at the same time one FBI agent was telling Lyons of the Gang Intelligence Unit that there were legal weapons in the apartment, another agent, Roy Martin Mitchell, was telling Jalovec and Sergeant Groth of the State's Attorney's special police raiding squad that a "stolen police riot pump and a sawed off shotgun" were in the apartment. These two illegal weapons are never mentioned in the FBI internal reports.

Confronted with the fact that the FBI had urged the State's Attorney's office to conduct a raid, providing them with information about weapons not appearing in internal reports and a detailed floor plan of the apartment, Johnson took two different tacts to defend himself. First, he claimed that he personally had no knowledge of the dealings of his subordinates in these matters. In this fashion he hoped evidently to conceal the fact that he had not told a special grand jury investigating the raid of the FBI role. It was brought out, however, that he was responsible, as the special agent-in-charge, for conducting an investigation for the grand jury of all facts pertinent to the raid. So he must have known of the FBI role in the raid at least prior to his "incomplete" testimony before the grand jury.

Second, Johnson has attempted to maintain that the FBI simply "disseminated information" to local law enforcement agencies about weapons in the apartment and took no active steps to get



Thousands from the Black and poor community turned out for Fred Hampton's funeral. Fred Hampton: "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill revolution."

them to conduct a raid. He has tried to say that "dissemination of information" was a routine function of the FBI and had nothing to do with the counterintelligence program against the Black Panther Party which had as its objective to "neutralize" and "cripple" the Black Panther Party and "prevent the rise of a Black Messiah." The apparent contradiction in his testimony is that the same agents involved in and responsible for the COINTELPRO against the Black Panther Party were the ones who gave the information to different law enforcement agencies to get them to carry out the murderous raid on Fred Hampton's apartment.

A great amount of information about the wide range of activities employed by the FBI to contain groups with opposition political views has come out in the first few weeks of testimony. It appears that the FBI would go to extreme lengths to create divisions and distrust in and between grassroots community organizations. Further, it seems that the FBI was indeed

comfortable with causing violence and even murder in order to accomplish its purpose of "crippling and preventing."

Despite Johnson's ridiculous statements about his "non-violent" intentions, the FBI has been revealed to be a well-organized government body, authorized at the highest level, going about the business of getting local police to do the dirty work of destroying progressive organizations — by any means necessary.

Today the Black Panther Party is alive and well, providing a basic survival structure in the poor and oppressed communities throughout the country. The FBI on the other hand is on trial, its illegal and inhuman practices revealed to the public. It seems that Fred Hampton has been successful, while J. Edgar Hoover and his superiors have been backed into a corner. In the words of the slain Deputy Chairman of the Illinois Black Panther Party, "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill revolution." □

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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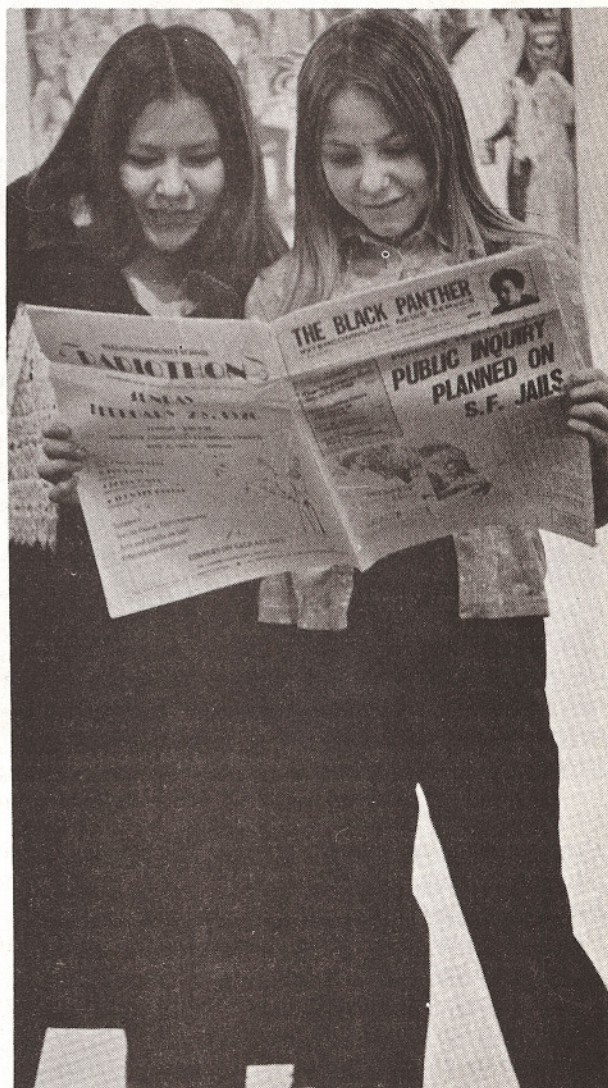
The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to white people, for over 5 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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«GOLD CARD» SLAVERY CHALLENGED

In the midst of massive news coverage here lately blasting the Illinois Family Health Plan, Inc., a local health maintenance organization, the 46th Ward Community Service Center made substantial progress in forcing the Illinois Department of Public Aid to recognize community-based complaints against the program. The Service Center has maintained that since public aid made a contract with the health plan company, it is their responsibility to monitor the program and ensure that its clients receive the terms of the contract.

In last month's *KEEP STRONG* it was revealed that an immediate investigation into the questionable practices of the Illinois Family Health Plan, Inc. had been demanded. Complaints of fraud, misrepresentation and invasion of privacy had been leveled at the private health organization which offers a gold card to replace the public aid green card.

When recruiting people to its program, Illinois Family Health has consistently made grandiose promises which participants in the program say are not kept. The 46th Ward Community Service Center coordinator Marc Zalkin explained, "They've made promises of round-the-clock health protection, free transportation in emergencies, choice of doctors, easy access to pharmacies, x-rays and specialty consultation, in addition to routine patient care. Complaints have included that (1) no one answers the round-the-clock emergency number; (2) patients have had difficulty getting emergency prescriptions filled; (3) choice of hospital care is limited to American Hospital and; (4) there is virtually no transportation even in emergencies.

"According to our informed sources at the welfare office, public aid pays \$45 per month for a green card but only pays \$28 a person per month to Illinois Family Health Plan. Also, the people who go out to solicit for the program get \$2 an hour plus a bonus for each person they sign up. We think this added incentive is encouraging a



Incensed community residents at the Uptown Family Health Center trying to get off the gold card.

high pressure sales pitch resulting in frequent misrepresentation of benefits and facilities."

On Friday, February 13, the Service Center and the Intercommunal Survival Committee held an on-the-spot press conference at the Uptown Family Health Center located at 4071 N. Broadway. This is one of the Illinois Family Health Plan's six clinics. The intention of the press conference was to expose the health center for its practice of using delaying tactics to prevent people from disenrolling from the program. Confronting Mark Tauber who is responsible for disenrollment (as well as enrollment), the conference organizers and nearly 50 angry community residents demanded that he act immediately to disenroll the 28 people present who had tried unsuccessfully to get off the program. Tauber's practice had been to make disenrollment applications available only once every other week at the Uptown center. Once an



Nearly 50 angry community residents demanded that Tauber act immediately to disenroll the 28 people present who had been trying unsuccessfully to get off the program.

application was filled out, a lengthy grievance procedure was carried through that usually delayed the process at least another two to three weeks.

One gold card holder present had been trying to get her small son necessary medical attention for several months. He suffers from paralysis of the facial muscles. After a few visits to the Uptown Family Health Center, she was informed that they did not have the capacity to attend to the child's needs. "They told me to take him home and give him an aspirin." Through other sources she determined that Michael Reese Hospital offers the program to help her son. After the doctors at the Uptown facility informed her that they could not make a referral to Michael Reese, she attempted to make an appointment to disenroll.

After three weeks of trying to see Mr. Tauber, she came to the health center on February 13. She finally got to see Tauber, who, confronted by the incensed community, filled out a disenrollment form which she signed. At that time he insisted that she would still have to go through their lengthy disenrollment procedure, despite her explanation that if her son had to wait another month before receiving treatment, his affliction might have serious lifetime effects.

"After the press conference," continued Mr. Zalkin, "we sent a second letter to James Trainor (public aid director) asking him to respond to this grave situation. We pointed out that as the person principally responsible for awarding this

contract, he had a double obligation to stop this fraud. We demanded that he act at once to ensure that public aid inform all of its clients of the severe limitations of this health program and others like it; that they do this in writing and in person, in English and in Spanish; that these letters point out to people exactly what they are not entitled to as gold card holders and precisely what procedure they must follow in order to disenroll.

"Secondly, we insisted he assume primary responsibility for vigilant monitoring of these health maintenance organizations. The monitoring program must regularly carry out a critical examination of every aspect and detail of Illinois Family Health Plan in order to be effective.

"Although we have not received a response from Trainor, we met with Joseph Adducci, Supervisor of Prepaid Medical Services for Cook County. We gave him a list of case histories where there had been flagrant violations, a list of 28 people who wanted out of the program immediately and our list of demands. They have instructed the health plan to disenroll people everyday at any time. Presently our charges are being investigated, and action is pending.

"Adducci says he has received a tremendous number of requests to disenroll in the last few weeks, and we continue to take in five to ten complaints a day at the Service Center. The people who wanted to get off the program have been disenrolled." □

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Attica Charges Dropped

(Albany, N.Y.) A State Supreme Court Justice has dismissed all charges against 10 inmates accused of kidnapping guards in the 1971 Attica prison rebellion. Justice Frank R. Bayger dropped the charges because of "flagrant" deficiencies in the state investigation.

The famous September rebellion was the result of a long series of abuses of inmates by guards and the constant inhuman living conditions in which the inmates are forced to live. The state prosecution of the cases had come under much criticism because of its one-sided prosecution of the inmates. Although the state has spent large sums of money in a effort to prosecute the survivors of the upheaval, little time and expense have been allocated for the investigation of criminal acts by law enforcement officials who stormed the prison.

Enforcement officers at Attica fired over 450 times, hitting 128 people, and killing 10 hostages and 29 inmates. Prison observers have commented that since those shots were not fired to save anyone from an immediate threat of death, they were not justifiable and were probably criminal.

The famous September rebellion was a result of a long series of abuses and the constant inhuman living conditions that inmates were forced to live with.



However, both the state prosecution and special investigation of the incident have failed to focus any attention on the actions of the enforcement officials.□

New York City Wants To "Shrink" Slums

(New York City, N.Y.) A municipal government plan to "shrink" New York City slums has stirred the opposition of members of the communities affected and of politicians fearful of losing their constituencies. The discontent comes as a result of a disclosure by Housing Development Administrator Roger Starr of the city's proposal to depopulate New York slums and rechannel the money presently being spent to rehabilitate those areas.

"Feelings are running very high against this plan here in the South Bronx," said Frank Puig, director of the South Bronx Unit of the City Planning Commission. "We've been receiving a lot of very angry phone calls about this. I think that it's unfortunate that a person of Starr's position would feel this way on this issue. From a planning point of view it seems to me that to lump the problems on the back of the poor in this fashion is ill-considered."

The Starr "slum shrinkage" plan calls for





The New York plan is "outrageous and smacking of benign neglect."

depopulating or "inducing" slum residents to move to other more viable parts of the city to help prevent services from "thinning out." Furthermore, it would eliminate the need to spend already severely limited housing funds on construction and repair of vast areas of deteriorated and abandoned buildings.

Congressman Herman Badillo, whose political base encompasses a large portion of the South Bronx, dismissed the administrator's plan as "outrageous and smacking of benign neglect." Badillo charged the plan "verged on insanity" and warned that it was "an elitist idea. The plan really doesn't consider poor people as equal citizens, and it shows that he (Starr) is really out of touch with poor working class people," he added.

According to a number of persons familiar with the housing situation in the South Bronx, the idea of depopulation has been on the "hidden agenda" of the city. "People have known about this for years," said one city official, "but this is the first time that anyone as high in the administration has ever enunciated such a proposal publicly. In theory the city would like to level slum areas like the South Bronx and Harlem and redevelop them at prices which would attract suburban, middle class families who have left the city." □

Reprinted from Claridad

California Tenants Picket Over Removal Plans

(San Francisco, Calif.) More than 100 members of Tenants for Action, an organization of Black and poor tenants in the Hunter's Point Housing Projects, picketed the City Hall on Friday, February 13, to protest the Housing Authority's plans to remove them from their homes.

Nearly 200 families will lose their homes in the first phase of the Housing Authority's "Target Projects Program," which is eventually intended to demolish or "rehabilitate" all of the nearly 1,300 units of low-rent public housing in Hunter's Point.

Ms. Melva Trask, president of the Tenants for Action (TFA) stated that the real purpose of the "Target Projects Program" is to drive poor people out of the Hunter's Point area. She noticed that the first phase of the program called for tenant relocation when it would be possible to start "rehabilitation" of vacant apartment buildings in the area. "We are being removed from our homes to make way for property speculation and 'economic development' in the Hunter's Point district," says a press release from TFA.

The local "Target Projects Program" is part of a long-term plan by various city agencies to remove low-rent housing from the Hunter's Point district in order to attract industry to the adjacent shipyard properties. Other plans under discussion for the "new" Hunter's Point include a marina, a state park, a luxury shoreline housing development, and either a restaurant/hotel or a convalescent hospital in a "view" location atop the Hunter's Point ridge.

Tenants for Action realizes that the speculators can't start making money off the "new" Hunter's Point as long as the current residents hold their ground. "We refuse to be the victims of this land grab. We won't move until our demands are met," TFA asserts.

Low-rent housing was originally built in Hunter's Point during World War II to accommodate workers in the nearby shipyard and other defense-related industries. Many of the workers were Blacks from the South and Southwest who came to the Bay Area to fill the war-time demand for labor. Most of the Hunter

Point's tenants are Black. All are poor.

Listed as the seven demands of the TFA are, in part:

"1. We demand that tenants wanting to move completely out of public housing receive at least \$4,500 for just compensation . . .

"2. We demand that tenants wanting to return to Hunter's Point 17A after rehabilitation will be placed in their same unit or area at the same rent. We demand that no extra expenses be required when we return . . . we demand that there be no rescreening of our eligibility for public housing on the basis of the move.

"3. We demand that all tenants moving because of rehabilitation will be placed into the Naval Shipyard housing until the time we return to our previous housing or until the time we tenants who intend to move out of public housing completely can find adequate housing.

"4. We demand that all tenants receive a written contract guaranteeing all conditions of the move, including rent, time periods of relocation, moving expenses, conditions of housing . . .

"5. We demand that all moving expenses be paid before the move, and we demand that such compensation not be deducted from our welfare checks.

"6. We demand that eligibility to return to our own homes or other public housing be recognized regardless of our back rent accounts, that is, any past inability to make rent payments.

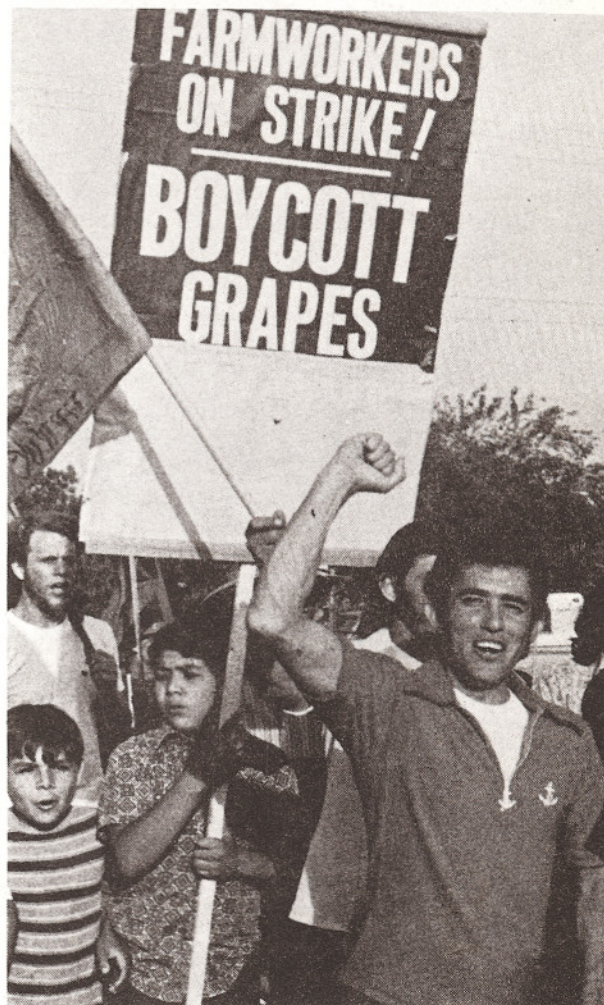
"7. We demand that all negotiations be with Tenants for Action, and the elected representatives of that organization."□

Reprinted from The Black Panther

"We're Going To Pin Them To The Wall"

(Salinas Valley, Calif.) In response to the overwhelming number of victories won by the United Farm Workers (UFW) over the Teamsters' Union in the recent California elections, large California agricultural growers have

stopped emergency legislation needed to continue the elections. The secret ballot elections were halted because funds for the now-dead Farm Labor Board had run out. The board had supervised the elections for five months in an effort to curb corruption.



Denied legal elections Farmworkers will step up their boycott.

Chavez announced a boycott to be directed against Sunmaid raisins, Sunsweet processed fruits and the products of a half-dozen other Fresno-area growers. He charged that they are responsible for stopping the \$3.8 million emergency legislative appropriation which would have saved the board. The UFW has asked the European Common Market to ban products of the California growers. The Common Market countries now account for 20% of the growers' sales.

'Speaking of the coming boycott Chavez said, "We're going to pin them to the wall, and when they're pinned they're going to come back to Sacramento crying. It's going to take us a year or so but they'll be back again because they're afraid."□

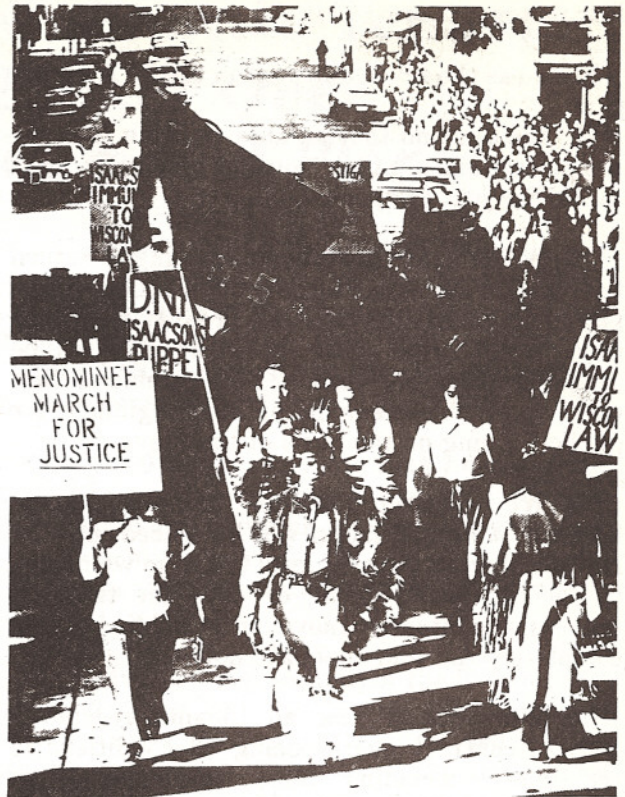
Menominees Protest For Removal Of Killer Sheriff

(Madison, Wis.) In the closing days of last month over 150 Menominees and their supporters held a sit-in at the Wisconsin State Capitol Building here demanding the removal of Sheriff Kenneth Fish accused by the demonstrators of recently murdering two Menominee Warriors. The intention of the Menominees is to keep a small vigil in the capitol building until Fish is removed. A larger contingent of Menominees and supporters moved to the nearby First Wisconsin National Bank to hold a brief sit-in in the main lobby while they explained to everyone there the role of this bank in selling 18,000 acres of land that rightfully belonged to the Menominee Tribe to white land speculators.

The recent history of the Menominee Tribe is just one more event in a long series of abuses and acts of genocide against the Native People of this country. In 1961 the Menominee People were economically self-sufficient with their own thriving



Just one more event in a long series of abuses and acts of genocide.



Menominees fighting for their land.

ing logging business. Seeking to make an example out of them for other Indian People to see, the U.S. Congress removed their reservation status. This meant, among other things, they had to pay taxes. In addition, the First Wisconsin Trust Company of Milwaukee was made financial guardian for all Menominee youth, for a fee of one-quarter of a million dollars. This in effect destroyed their economic stability, and the Tribe was forced to sell 18,000 acres of their land to relieve their growing tax burden. The plan on the part of the banks was to use this land as a tourist area complete with luxurious resort hotels.

In January of 1975, seeking to regain some of their land, the Menominee Warrior Society seized the unused Alexian Brothers Novitiate. Since that time the campaign of terror and brutality against the Menominee People has been unending. This campaign led by Sheriff Fish has resulted in numerous arrests, and recently on February 3, 1976, he and his deputies were responsible for the brutal murder of two brothers, John Waubanascun and Arlin Paminet, whom they shot in the back with a 12 gauge shotguns. In the words of one Menominee brother, "Our attempts to exercise our legitimate rights as stated in the Treaty of 1848 which guaranteed our repossession of all unused land, has been met with nothing but terror and outright murder." □

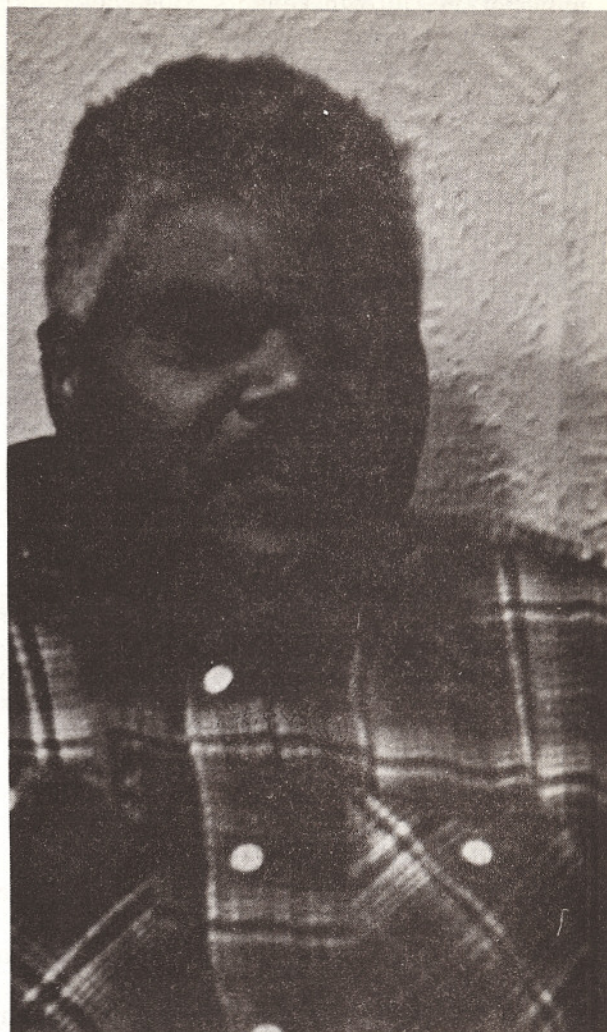
INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Liberate Zimbabwe! An Interview With Tapson Mawere Of ZANU

In the following special KEEP STRONG interview with Tapson Mawere, Chief Representative to the United States, Canada and the Caribbean from ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), he explains the harsh colonial realities in his country which led to the armed struggle for self-determination now going on. Located in Southern Africa, rich in minerals and oil, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is ruled by the 5% white minority supported by the U.S. government, although the United Nations has formally labeled the minority government an "illegal" government. The reasons for U.S. involvement are the enormous investments in Zimbabwe of the 500 top U.S. corporations. This internationally illegal involvement may lead the U.S. into a head-on confrontation with the millions of Zimbabwean people, struggling for the right to govern their own country. National and international protest forced the U.S. to retreat in Angola, and the people of Zimbabwe deserve the same solidarity. The interview with brother Mawere was conducted at the ISC headquarters in Uptown. □

KEEP STRONG: *First, could you give us some background as to how ZANU was formed and the conditions in Zimbabwe that led up to its formation?*

TAPSON MAWERE: Before ZANU was formed there had been some political organizations which were organized along the lines of the civil rights movements to try to demand democratic rights for the majority of Black people in Rhodesia. For instance, the majority of people are workers on farms, in mines, or in factories. Farmworkers work for something like 50 cents a day, and this amounts to \$156 a year. Workers in



Tapson Mawere: "The settlers look upon Black people as just a source of labor."

the mines are a little better because they make something like \$13 or \$14 a month. That's less than \$500 a year. That, too, is not enough because even the South Africa Chamber of Commerce assessors found out that a family of four in Rhodesia and South Africa would require about \$110 a month or \$1200 a year.

Now the workers in Rhodesia are making less than half of what they need to live so the political organizations which were formed prior to ZANU were trying to demand fundamental democratic rights so the people could live decently. But this was not listened to by the settlers who look upon the majority of Black people as just a source of labor, as resources to be exploited for their profits.

KS: *About when was ZANU organized?*

TM: ZANU was organized on August 8, 1963. And the following year which was 1964, the



Rhodesian government outlawed ZANU, but ZANU remained underground and outside Rhodesia and continued to organize an armed force which is fighting against the Rhodesian government today.

When we started out we were very bitter, very much in a hurry. We sort of set out and admitted we wanted to strike at the enemy. We found this was not very effective, and so we went back and involved ourselves with the people in their communities. We started to identify ourselves with the people's needs, the people's problems, and oriented the people to realize that whatever problems they have, they will not be solved by anyone but themselves.

KS: I've heard that ZANU operates different kinds of basic programs that are organized among the people. Could you describe some of these?

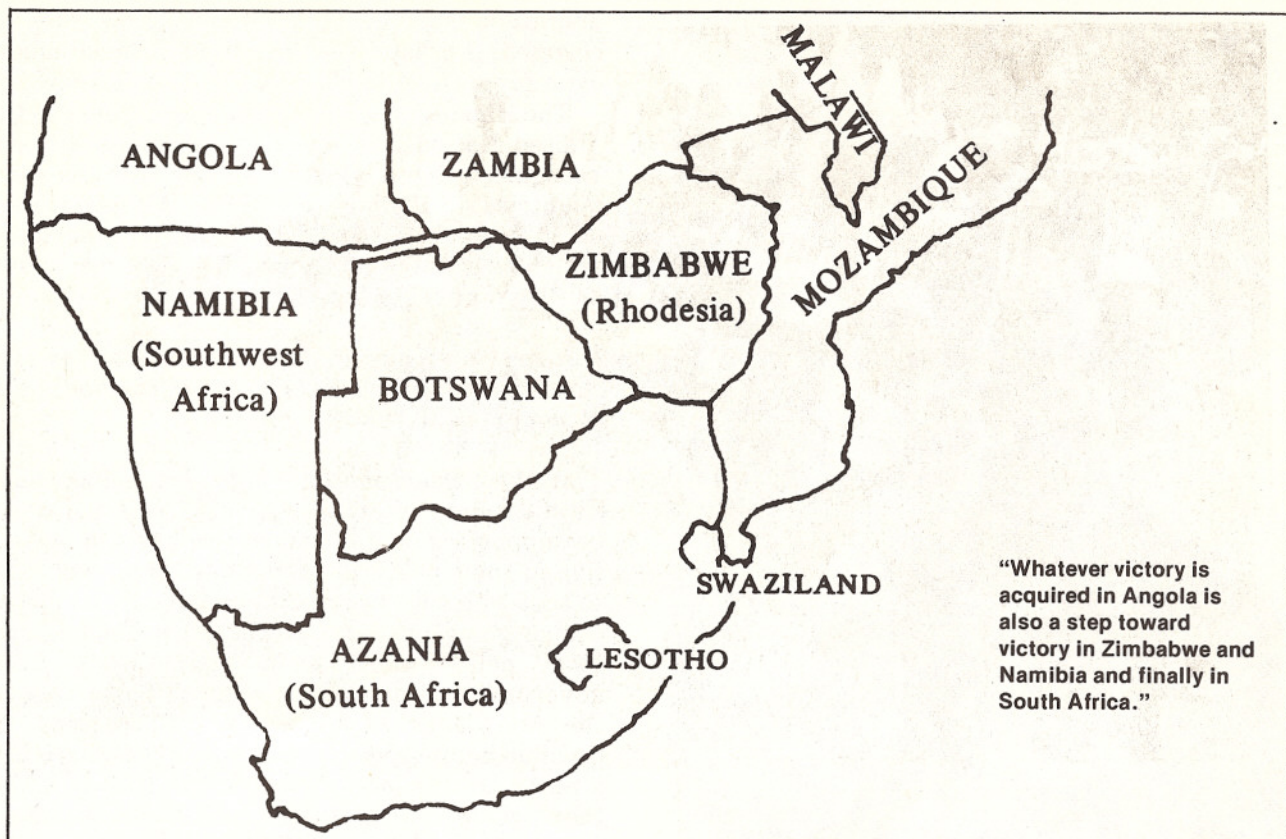
TM: When we oriented the people to realize that they had to take up struggle upon themselves, and then launched armed struggle, we were able to control certain areas at points where the government was not able to supply services. And therefore, the people in those areas depended on ZANU for vital services such as education, health, food production, and transportation of food and other consumer supplies. All this is done by ZANU.

Before ZANU was in the area these fundamental needs, say educational needs, were provided by the missionaries. The government would subsidize schools but the initiative had to be taken either by the local people themselves or by the missionaries. Therefore the schools were far in between and did not really provide for the majority of the children. Each year about 250,000 children of school age could not afford to go to school because these schools were not free.

Now health-wise, the clinics which were available were about 200 miles apart. With poor communications, it means only a few people were fortunate enough to go to the clinic. Now, it's different because we are reaching the people and providing these things so that everyone can have access to them.

KS: Could you explain how foreign domination came about in Zimbabwe?

TM: Zimbabwe was invaded by the British from South Africa. It was just about the time soon after the famous Berlin Conference where the European countries met and divided Africa up. The southern part of Africa was sort of reserved for the British. And a man by the name of Cecil John Rhodes was very rich and came to Capetown and organized a commercial company which recruited mercenaries. They recruited mercenaries just as they are doing now. Then he



cheated the Zimbabwean people into getting into Zimbabwe, because when he came in he said that he wanted permits to hunt and prospect for gold. Now although the people tried to resist, using their own primitive instruments, they could not withstand the force of cannons, the rifles and so on. And they were defeated, so the country was occupied by conquest. And that violent occupation has never been lifted in Zimbabwe. The people have been ruled with the same violence that was imposed at the conquest.

KS: Approximately what percentage of the population rules Zimbabwe today?

TM: The total population of Zimbabwe is a little over six million. Of this there are about 260,000 whites. These are the people who have full control of Rhodesia. They rule completely. In other words we are talking about 4% or 5% of the population having full political, economic and military control of the country.

KS: Could you tell us something about the resources of the country?

TM: The country has a lot of mineral wealth. We have gold, chrome, copper, iron ore, asbestos, zinc, lead. All the mining is under the control of the British companies and the American companies.

Union Carbide is there, all the oil companies, the auto companies are there, all the instrument companies are there, all the corporations; all the corporations, the 500 largest corporations in the United States you find in Fortune magazine. Everyone of them has a subsidiary either directly or indirectly through someone.

KS: How much of the territory is liberated now?

TM: First let me say this, that 50% of the land is reserved for the whites who form 5% of the population. This half is the richest, most productive, constantly full of minerals and has also developed transportation and so forth. The other half which is for 95% of the population is actually the rigid land, the one not fit for the white man's use.

So what we have done is to sort of cut across this from the northeast. We are controlling part of what was reserved for the people and part of the settlers' land. All in all, I would say there must be something like 2 million people within our operational zones.

KS: How do you view the relationship of the struggle in Zimbabwe to the struggle, say, in Angola and other African countries?

TM: You see, the struggle in Angola, in Rhodesia, South Africa, Namibia, in Mozambique



"We want to bring this to the knowledge of as many U.S. citizens as possible because we believe most of them are not a party to this foreign policy."

and so forth form what we call Southern Africa. So those struggles are in a sense the same. However, there are stages; one region falls and the next . . . so whatever victory is acquired in Angola is also a step toward victory in Zimbabwe and Namibia and finally in South Africa.

KS: How do you think the U.S. government is reacting and will react in the future to the struggle in Zimbabwe?

TM: Well, the point I think is that the United States still follows the unofficial policy of 1917 that they will support the minority regimes in Southern Africa, and they will not support

liberation movements. I do not know they've changed. Perhaps the lesson in Angola might even force them to change, but I don't know.

The Rhodesian government is, according to the United Nations, an illegal government. It's not recognized by anybody — only the western countries (including the U.S.). Although they officially don't recognize it, they still do business with it as if it was recognized. But technically it's an illegal government.

KS: In what ways are you in your work in this country asking for people to assist the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe?

TM: My mission is to accomplish the following. First is a humanitarian request. We ask people to be supporters on a humanitarian basis, irrespective of their political convictions. Two, we want to seek publicity because we believe that a lot of things going on there people here don't know. Most people don't even know what their government is doing. We want to bring this to the knowledge of as many U.S. citizens as possible because we believe most of them are not a party to this foreign policy, and if they know they could exert some influence on their government, and we hope their government will change its policy. Three, since ours is a mass effort directed at the masses of people to better their lives, we recognize that the injustices that we suffer over there are very similar to a lot of injustices that people in the United States and elsewhere are suffering. And we are seeking linkages with people in similar situations. If we are to be really successful it means U.S. imperialism has to be really defeated, and we are seeking to raise the consciousness of the U.S. people to do just that. □

**For more information about ZANU,
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"DOG DAY AFTERNOON"

The movie, "Dog Day Afternoon" starring Al Pacino, is a very real portrayal of how American society creates tremendous pressures and contradictions for anyone caught in the turmoil of trying to survive and at the same time maintain some human relationships with the people around them.

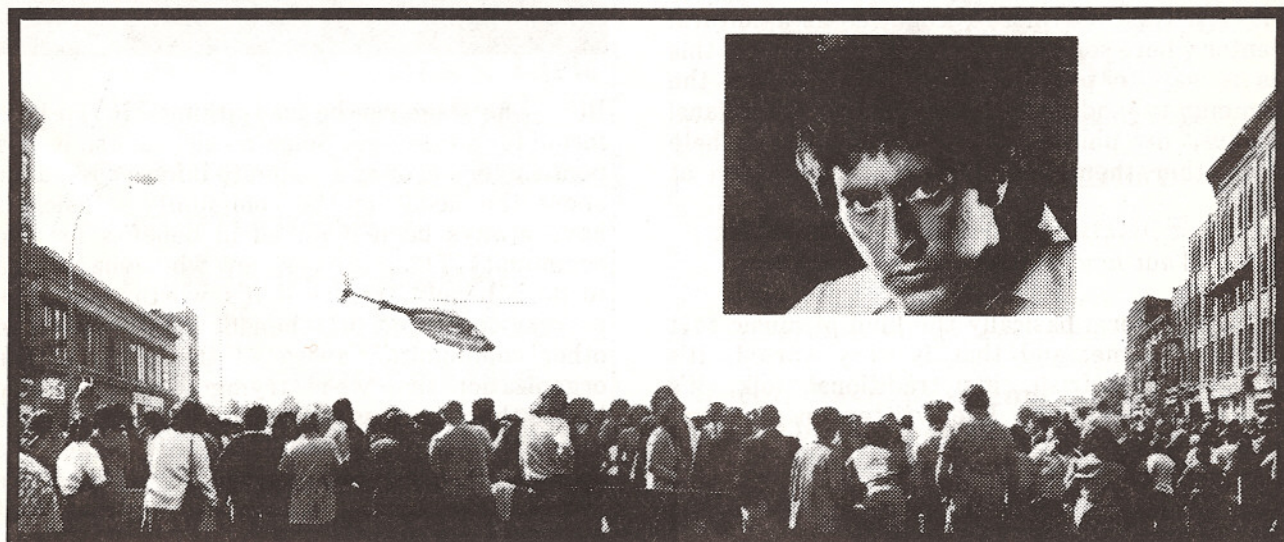
The movie starts out with Sonny (Al Pacino) and his partner Sal, a cold killer created by the Vietnam war, attempting to rob a bank. The robbery itself is almost humorous, if not pathetic. Although Sonny has a good knowledge of the operation and security system of the bank, the robbery is poorly planned, and after fumbling around for half an hour, when it should have taken no more than ten minutes, they discover that the bank has been surrounded by hundreds of police.

In the course of the movie, we get glimpses of Sonny's life and the many contradictions he is faced with. He has an overbearing mother, trying to keep him under her wing and constantly interfering with his life; a female wife whom he

has some feelings for, yet has threatened to kill and someone he obviously can't communicate with; and he has a male wife whom he is robbing the bank for in order for him to get a sex change operation. He cares for Leon, yet has driven him almost insane with threats on his life. He is deeply disturbed with recent events like the Attica Rebellion, the sheer brutality of the police. He is unemployed . . . the list goes on and on.

The movie also gives the audience a glimpse of how swiftly the police move to crush any act of resistance. Their insensitivity (shown by the contemptuous way they deal with Leon), their overreactions and their trigger-happy impulses, ready to kill in an instant's notice. The FBI is shown as it is — cold-blooded, using deception and divisive tactics to destroy any opposition.

The final scene captures the hopelessness of many people in Sonny's position who have attempted to deal with their situation through acts of individual resistance only to find themselves more deeply caught in America's oppressive web. □



Blues To Bluegrass

PART 2

Following is an interview with Bill Cody, co-founder of Blues to Bluegrass, an organization whose purpose is to promote community talent. The discussion focuses on how music can be used to help meet the needs of oppressed people.

KEEP STRONG: *In our last issue of KEEP STRONG we interviewed Hy Thurman about Blues to Bluegrass. Is there anything you would like to add to that as far as how you view the organization?*

BILL CODY: I see the purpose of Blues to Bluegrass as being twofold. I think Hy mentioned this. The reason we're working together is that he's primarily oriented towards the community, from the experience he's had. And I'm more oriented towards music, from the experience that I've had. So he deals with the community, and I deal with the musical end of it. While we help community organizations out to raise funds for worthwhile causes we also help to promote music in Chicago which is why we call it Blues to Bluegrass. We feel that Chicago is a musical center for all kinds of music, more than just Bluegrass, folk or rock. We would like to see the city itself become more recognized as a cultural center where something is happening. I view this as a way to provide both a service for the community and to help my fellow musicians, because my philosophy is that if we can't help each other, then none of us can get anywhere at all.

KS: *What kind of music do you perform?*

BC: I perform basically the kind of music that appeals to me, and that is very varied. It's country, it's Irish, it's traditional folk, it's contemporary; songs I've written on my own; just about anything.

KS: *How do you use your music to relate to the community?*



BC: The stage can be many things. It can be a forum for a message. Some musicians use it as a political forum, or as a forum to inform the public about the needs of the community. Musicians have always been involved in benefits for the community. There are very few who, when asked to do a benefit, refuse if it's worthwhile. The process of putting on a benefit makes people in other communities aware of the needs of the organization that we're trying to help. It also brings the musicians closer to the people they are trying to reach from the stage. It makes the community more aware of what options are available as far as music or services that musicians can provide.

KS: Do you think organizations should respond to the needs of the community, and how do you define that?

BC: I feel that the established system, the government, is not responsive to the people. There's no need to have as many people as needy as there are in this country. I feel that if the government can't or won't take care of its poor, then it's up to the people themselves to take care of each other. And this goes back to the philosophy in the music scene of helping each other. I've donated my time to social and political organizations because of the philosophy that we've got to help each other. Rather than sit around and overthrow a system that's been around for 200 years, we can work within it or even circumvent it by helping each other and taking care of our own needs as a community.

KS: You started out by saying you believe that the government does not respond to the needs of the people, and therefore, the people have to rely on themselves. Do you think the solution to the problem is that people who don't have resources and don't have power just scrape together to collectivize their meager resources to be able to survive? Or isn't it true that certain things in life are rights, not privileges? And that survival comes first because if you don't survive, you can't talk about change. What we want and deserve is the opposite of what exists. And what we need to do first, is bring about unity among people. But

we can never lose sight of the very real need to change who holds power. What do you think?

BC: I see the people as helping people within the community as sort of a short term solution to a long term problem. The first thing that has to be done immediately, as you say, is to survive. And we need to help people become socially aware. One thing that draws people's attention is music. If they're drawn to a benefit by the music and then are made socially aware of the fact that everyone in the community has needs, by attending that benefit they are taking care of the needs of others in the community like themselves. This accomplishes a short term solution of providing resources for those who have none. Second of all, it makes people more socially aware. I would see this as a step towards the unity that's necessary in order to present a demand to the government that it start to take care of the needs of its constituents. And I think that the problem in this country is that the government relies on the fact that it has this large buffer of social unawareness standing between the people with the power and the people with the needs.

KS: Just to clarify one thing I said earlier, I wasn't meaning to say that I don't think people should do it themselves. I think they should. It will be beautiful when we all get together, because this is the first step for us to begin to have some influence. □

Come to the Trial!

The civil lawsuit filed by the families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the survivors of the December 4, 1969 raid is now in progress.

The trial is being held Tuesday through Friday on the 25th floor of the federal building in Judge Perry's courtroom.

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A party recently held by the Chicago Area Black Lung Association on February 8, 1976.

In 1969 a federal black lung bill was passed to provide benefits to miners who have black lung as well as families whose husbands and fathers have been killed by the disease. Bureaucracy built into the bill has made it difficult for miners and their families to receive their deserved benefits. According to a 1972 study done by the federal government's General Accounting Office (GAO) 14,000 miners were denied black lung benefits because the x-rays taken were faulty.

The Labor Department administers the program. Since 1973 it has acted on only 22,000 of the 60,000 claims it has received. The coal mining industry has challenged 97% of the cases. One company doctor has been quoted, admitting that "We've fought some claims we shouldn't have from a medical standpoint."

Black lung is a coal miner's industrial disease, but was never recognized by law as being a result of the work done in mines until the late 60's. The coal dust forms lesions in the lung tissue that hinder breathing and the transfer of oxygen to the blood. Heavy work, and sometimes any work at all, becomes impossible. Advanced cases of black lung can lead to death.

Federal health standards have been imposed on the coal mining companies. But a recent government study concluded that coal mine dust-checking procedures are unreliable and of little value in protecting coal miners against black lung disease caused by the dust. The GAO, an investigative arm of Congress, said present methods make it impossible to determine whether coal operators are complying with federal health standards in their mines. □

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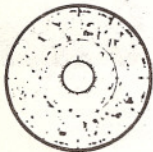




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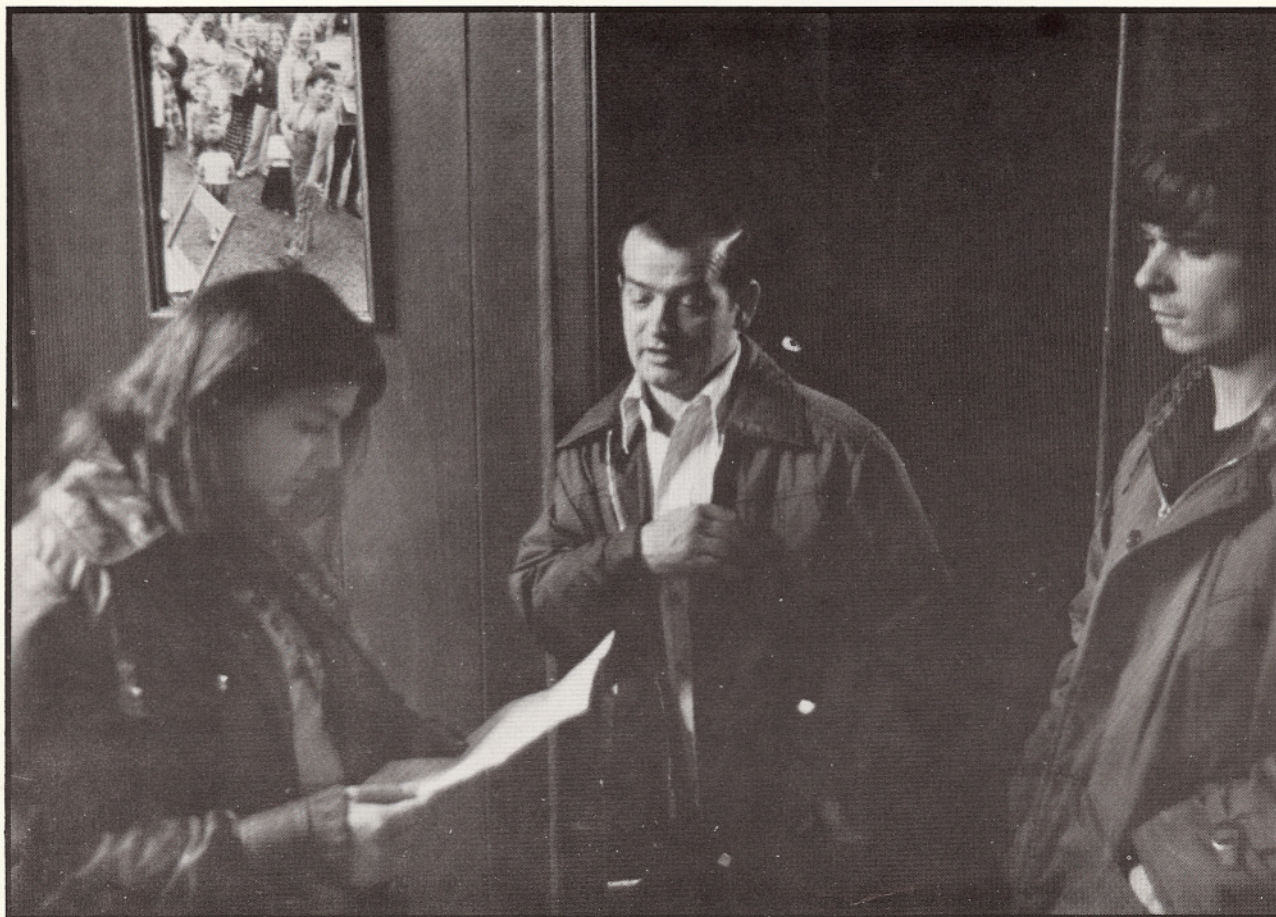
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